

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

27th June 2016

**REPORT OF SENIOR
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

**Leader of the Council – Councillor Bob Cook
Access, Communities and Community Safety– Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Steve
Nelson**

STOCKTON LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (SLSP) UPDATE

1. Summary

This report presents to Cabinet an update on the Stockton Local Strategic Partnership (SLSP), the partnership arrangements and infrastructure. The proposals take account of changes in the partnership landscape associated with the current SLSP infrastructure and discussions with stakeholders.

2. Recommendations

1. It is recommended that Cabinet agree the revised approach to the Stockton Local Strategic Partnership (SLSP) as set out in paragraphs 10 – 21.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations

The Stockton Local Strategic Partnership structure, the thematic groups, communities of and advisory groups in the borough have been subject to several reviews over the years, the last one being in 2013. The current arrangements are shown in **Appendix 1**. Since the last review a number of changes have taken place, particularly over the last 12-18 months, which necessitate a refresh of the current arrangements.

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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STOCKTON LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (SLSP) UPDATE

SUMMARY

This report presents to Cabinet an update on the Stockton Local Strategic Partnership (SLSP) and the partnership arrangements and infrastructure which support it. The proposals take account of changes in the partnership landscape associated with the current SLSP infrastructure and discussions with stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended that Cabinet agree the revised approach to the Stockton Local Strategic Partnership (SLSP) as set out in paragraphs 10 – 21.

DETAIL

2. The Stockton Local Strategic Partnership structure, the thematic partnerships and groups, communities of interest and advisory groups in the borough have been subject to several reviews over the years, the last one being in 2013. The current arrangements are shown in **Appendix 1**. Since the last review a number of changes have taken place, particularly over the last 12-18 months, which necessitate a refresh of the current arrangements. These changes are outlined in paragraphs 3 – 6 below:
3. 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 has only held one event since 2013 and the key delivery partners for Culture in Stockton (SBC, ARC, TMA and private entertainment companies and individuals) meet regularly, outside of the SLSP structure, to decide a programme of events and activities for the Borough.
4. Over the last couple of years the Housing and Neighbourhoods Partnership and the Fuel Poverty Partnership have increasingly found that their priorities and work areas have converged, which has been reflected in some duplication of membership across the two partnerships.

5. Since the function of Voice was transferred to Catalyst in 2013 there has 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 organises the Annual Environmental Forum.
6. The members of the Campus Stockton Collaborative Partnership although meeting regularly and also with colleagues across Tees, have in practice participated in the LSP through other routes and not particularly through this mechanism.

THE PROPOSALS

7. 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 are 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 are in poverty
8. The SLSP currently holds an Annual Business Meeting and another themed event each year to drive delivery of the strategy. The themed event planned for 2016/17 is on the new strand of the support for the under 35's.
9. The four SLSP Locality Forums meet regularly throughout the year to deliver local responses to the SLSP priorities.
10. It is proposed that the focus of the SLSP remains on tackling poverty in the borough and that the core SLSP and locality arrangements remain unchanged. The SLSP is delivering significant achievements in tackling poverty in the borough. It is proposed that the support for the SLSP and the Locality Forums remains unchanged and is continued to be delivered from the Consultation, Communication and Engagement team within the HR, Legal and Communications directorate within the Council.
11. It is proposed that a number of changes to the thematic groups, advisory groups and partnerships are supported to reflect the changes in the landscape that have been noted above in paragraphs 3-6.
12. It is proposed that the Over 50's Assembly becomes part of the Ageing Better Partnership that Catalyst have established and that the partnership becomes 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.
13. Research into the function of the Disability Advisory Group shows that it has primarily been used as an SBC reference group e.g. the Town Centre consultation on accessibility, car parking etc. It is therefore suggested that this remains supported and co-ordinated by SBC.
14. The Youth Assembly is managed and administered by Democratic Services within SBC, and it is proposed that this should remain unchanged.
15. It is proposed that the Voice groups and the Annual Environmental Forum which are supported and co-ordinated by Catalyst should remain unchanged.

16. The Health and Well Being Board (HWBB) and Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP) are statutory boards and it is proposed that they will remain unchanged in the structure.
17. As a result of the developments with the LEP/TVCA and the involvement in the VCSE sector via other routes it is proposed that the Economic and Regeneration briefings and the Annual Cultural Forum are discontinued.
18. With the focus of the Housing and Neighbourhood Partnership and the Fuel Poverty Partnership converging, after discussions with the secretariat it is 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.
19. The Area Transport Groups (ATG) are seen as being positive by the majority of the stakeholders and is proposed that they remain. However it is proposed that a review is carried out of how they operate before the next round of ATG consultations.
20. The Financial Inclusion Partnership, Infinity, is a key partnership in driving forward the anti-poverty agenda. Infinity was brought into the formal structure in 2014. Infinity are currently looking at refreshing their membership and action plans.
21. One of the priorities within the Family Poverty Framework is 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 is proposed that the route of engagement for them is via the Children and Young Peoples Partnership within the HWBB.
22. A new diagram showing the proposed SLSP is included in **Appendix 2**. The SLSP diagram in Appendix 2 has been updated to show only the SLSP structure, the other communities of interest, advisory groups and thematic partnerships and groups which operate within the borough on areas of interest in their own agenda areas have been removed from the diagram for the purposes of focusing on the SLSP in this diagram. It is recognised that in addition to working in their own fields these other partnerships and groups will of course continue to be important partners with the SLSP in their work to tackle poverty in the borough.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

23. The proposals outlined in this report strengthen the SLSP and therefore are considered to have positive community impact.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

24. All financial implications can be met from existing budgets.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

25. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

26. The review of the SLSP is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce the risk.

COUNCIL PLAN THEMES

27. The SLSP supports all themes within the Council Plan.

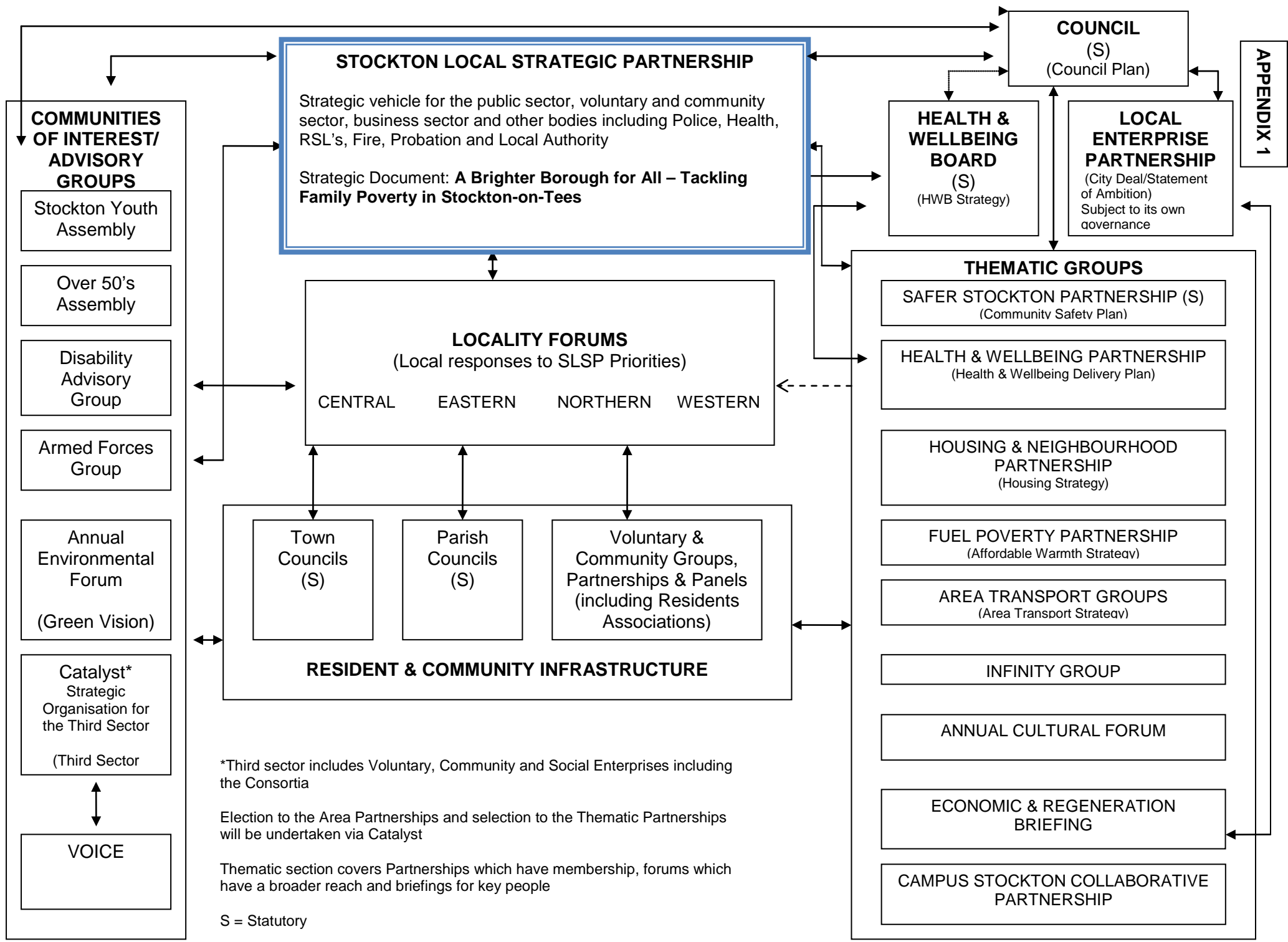
CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

28. Members of the SLSP infrastructure have been consulted.

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STOCKTON LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
 Strategic vehicle for the public sector, voluntary and community sector, business sector and other bodies including Police, Health, RSL's, Fire, Probation and Local Authority
 Strategic Document: **A Brighter Borough for All – Tackling Family Poverty in Stockton-on-Tees**

COUNCIL (S)
 (Council Plan)

HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD (S)
 (HWB Strategy)

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP
 (City Deal/Statement of Ambition)
 Subject to its own governance

APPENDIX 1

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST/ ADVISORY GROUPS

Stockton Youth Assembly

Over 50's Assembly

Disability Advisory Group

Armed Forces Group

Annual Environmental Forum
 (Green Vision)

Catalyst* Strategic Organisation for the Third Sector
 (Third Sector)

VOICE

LOCALITY FORUMS
 (Local responses to SLSP Priorities)
 CENTRAL EASTERN NORTHERN WESTERN

RESIDENT & COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE
 Town Councils (S) Parish Councils (S) Voluntary & Community Groups, Partnerships & Panels (including Residents Associations)

THEMATIC GROUPS

- SAFER STOCKTON PARTNERSHIP (S) (Community Safety Plan)
- HEALTH & WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP (Health & Wellbeing Delivery Plan)
- HOUSING & NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP (Housing Strategy)
- FUEL POVERTY PARTNERSHIP (Affordable Warmth Strategy)
- AREA TRANSPORT GROUPS (Area Transport Strategy)
- INFINITY GROUP
- ANNUAL CULTURAL FORUM
- ECONOMIC & REGENERATION BRIEFING
- CAMPUS STOCKTON COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP

*Third sector includes Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprises including the Consortia

Election to the Area Partnerships and selection to the Thematic Partnerships will be undertaken via Catalyst

Thematic section covers Partnerships which have membership, forums which have a broader reach and briefings for key people

S = Statutory

