

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....12th November 2020

1. Title of Item/Report

Targeted Action Area Review and Next Steps

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet noted that the Targeted Action Area (TAA) initiative had been established following Cabinet approval in November 2017. At that particular time, two areas of the borough 'North Thornaby' (the Victoria area within the Mandale and Victoria ward) and 'Central Stockton' were identified as areas which would benefit from a localised and targeted approach to tackling issues related to private rented housing and crime/anti-social behaviour.

Central to the TAA project have been attempts to work collaboratively with local communities and in partnership with agencies such as the police, fire brigade and Registered Housing providers. Given the project had been operating for almost three years, Cabinet were provided with highlights of what had been also achieved to date, reasons why it was now timely to cease the project in its current standalone form, and that key work areas be now incorporated into day-to-day service activity. The report also included an update on the Private Landlord Led Membership Scheme (aimed at driving up standards, property and management of private rented housing) which would continue, and Cabinet approval was sought to extend the formal evaluation of this scheme.

In terms of future working, whilst the TAA scheme as a standalone project would cease, there was an ongoing commitment to supporting these 2 localities through:

- The additional Private Sector Officer and Case Management (Community Enforcement) Officer roles will continue. This will enable both services to continue to deliver a proactive enforcement approach to issues related to both poor private sector housing and crime/anti-social behaviour.
- Partnership working with the police and local housing providers (including information exchange and joint problem solving) is now well-established and will continue through established forums.

- Community Engagement activities (including community communication) will be organised via Catalyst. Catalyst are best placed to organise the delivery of such activities via the established VCSE network.

- The Private Landlord Led Membership would continue. A formal review would be presented back to Cabinet after the scheme has been in operation for 18-months. Representatives from the Councils Private Sector Housing Team would continue to represent the Council on the scheme Steering Group.

Concern was expressed that Ward Members had not been consulted fully on these proposals and therefore it was proposed that Recommendation 2 in the report - the continuation of TAA work areas delivered through Council service areas and Catalyst - be approved on the basis that appropriate consultation and engagement is carried out with all relevant Ward Councillors going forward.

RESOLVED that:-

- 1.Cabinet approve the extension of the Private Landlord Led Membership scheme review until 18 months after the scheme was initially launched (review to be take place post March 2021).

- 2.Cabinet note that key TAA work areas will continue to be maintained and delivered through existing Council service teams and community engagement activities organised via Catalyst; and that key work areas would also be considered as part of the Councils planned response to COVID; and that appropriate consultation and engagement is carried out with all relevant Ward Councillors going forward.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To update Cabinet on what has been achieved since the introduction of the TAA project. This includes an update on the Private Landlord Led Membership Scheme (aimed at driving up standards, property and management of private rented housing) and to seek Cabinet approval to extend the formal evaluation of this scheme. In response to the COVID pandemic, council-wide proposals are currently being explored which will focus on more fundamental and long-term actions to support recovery and to mitigate its negative impact. This will require a re-appraisal of the Councils approach to some of the long-term issues facing the borough; including additional work on reducing inequalities that have widened during the pandemic and a focus on the specific role area-based approaches can play in helping to reduce spatial inequalities.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Nelson declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of this item being a Board Member on Thirteen, housing provider.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

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

Midnight Friday 20th November 2020

Proper Officer  
16 November 2020