

Cabinet

A meeting of Cabinet was held on Thursday, 14th May, 2009.

Present: Cllr Ken Lupton (Chairman); Cllr Mrs Jennie Beaumont, Cllr Ann Cains, Cllr Richard Cains, Cllr David Coleman, Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr Terry Laing, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Mrs Mary Womphrey

Officers: N.Schneider (CE); J.Humphreys, R.Hill (CESC); R.Poundford, M.Robinson, Ms C.Straughan (DNS); N.Hart, R.MacGregor, Ms J.Trainer, Ms M.Waggott (LD); Ms J.Danks, Ms S.Reay (R).

Also in attendance: Councillors Mrs O'Donnell, Perry, Mrs Rigg and Stoker

Apologies: Cllr Alex Cunningham

CAB 21/09 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mrs Womphrey declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in the item entitled Scrutiny Review-Older People Strategy as a result of her membership of Tees Active.

Councillors Mrs McCoy and Nelson each declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the item entitled Economic Climate Update as a result of their membership of Stockton District Advice & Information Service.

CAB 22/09 **Minutes of Meetings held on 5th March 2009, 19th March 2009 and 16th April 2009 - for signature.**

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 5th, 19th March and 16th April 2009, were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

CAB 23/09 **Audit Commission Annual Audit and Inspection Letter**

Consideration was given to a report that presented the Audit Commission Annual Audit & Inspection Letter for 2009, (formerly the Management Letter).

It was explained that the Audit Commission was responsible for arranging for the audit of the accounts of the Council (either by private firms or through their own auditors). They were also responsible for undertaking the annual Comprehensive Performance Assessment CPA and from 2009 onwards the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and other service inspections.

A formal stage in this process was the production of the "Annual Audit & Inspection Letter", formerly, the Management Letter. Members of Cabinet were presented with a copy of the Annual Audit & Inspection Letter for 2008/09.

The Annual Audit Letter provided a comprehensive and independent assessment of the overall "health" of the Council. It reported on the detailed results of all service inspections and assessments and also referenced how the Council worked with key partners. It was noted that, in line with previous practice, a copy of the Annual Audit Letter would be sent to all Members of the Council.

RESOLVED that the contents of the letter be noted.

**CAB
24/09**

Scrutiny Review of Audiology

Consideration was given to a report that presented the findings of the Health Select Committees following a review into audiology services for Stockton residents. The review examined access to services, care pathways and waiting times as well as feedback from users of the service.

During the review, the Committee received evidence from service users, and a link officer from the Tees PCTs was assigned for the duration of the review.

It was noted that following consideration of the recommendations by Cabinet and the Tees PCTs, an action plan would be submitted to the Select Committee setting out how approved recommendations would be implemented detailing responsibility for action and timescales.

RESOLVED that: -

1. The Tees PCTs be congratulated on implementing measures to significantly reduce waiting times.
2. The provision of more localised services in community settings be supported and this be considered as part of the Momentum proposals and through opportunities for the co-location of services with other providers.
3. The commissioning of private sector providers with a High Street presence (such as that provided via the Specsavers pilot) be supported to reduce pressure on the more specialised services provided elsewhere and improve access to services, subject to clear information and reassurances being provided to patients that the NHS service is free of charge from any commissioned provider.
4. The Tees PCTs review the care pathway for children's screening, taking into account the different models operating across the Tees PCTs to seek to achieve best practice.
5. The Tees PCTs review demand for audiology services provided at UHNT (in particular the drop-in clinics) and investigate ways of reducing the pressure on services at UHNT if necessary.
6. The Tees PCTs review the care pathway to provide an improved ear wax removal service at the point of referral from the GP to the audiology dept.
7. Both visual and audio calling devices are operated in all audiology reception areas.

**CAB
25/09**

Scrutiny Review of Older Peoples Strategy

Cabinet considered a report that presented the findings of the Corporate, Adult Services and Social Inclusion Select Committee following a review of the Council's Older People Strategy.

It was explained that the review examined progress made against the strategy since its approval in January 2008 and sought to consider how the delivery of

services and advice for older people could be further improved, working where possible with other relevant partners, and seeking to raise the profile of older people's issues and making it easier for the public to access services and advice.

It was noted that following consideration of the recommendations by Cabinet, an action plan would be submitted to the Select Committee setting out how approved recommendations would be implemented detailing officers responsible for action and timescales.

RESOLVED:-

1. That the approach taken by the Council to introduce and monitor a co-ordinated Older Peoples Strategy with key partner agencies be supported and that progress against the strategy be acknowledged.
2. That the Council continue to develop its partnership approach to providing support for older people in the Borough through future service planning.
3. That the roll out of No Cold Calling Zones within Borough be supported and that this be targeted towards those areas of greatest vulnerability to doorstep crime.
4. That information on No Cold Calling Zones be publicised on the Council's website and in Stockton News.
5. That awareness of the Beware the Bogeyman Campaign be promoted through all available Council outlets and attempts be made to promote the initiative with hard to reach groups and Community/Residents Associations, church/faith groups etc via the Voluntary and Community Sector (including SCRAGA/Residents Associations/Catalyst/Help the Aged/Age Concern, other established communication channels) and that all Councillors be provided with information in order to promote the scheme via their ward surgeries, personal web pages etc..
6. That availability of the range of cultural and leisure activities be promoted wherever possible through third sector organisations including Help the Aged, Age Concern, U3A and the Over 50's Assembly and publicised in the Golden Guide, libraries and Customer Contact Centres.
7. That the availability of grant funding for outdoor exercise/ recreational equipment for older people be considered within future service planning; with reference to the possible options identified such as use either in dedicated apparatus sites (with possible location next to children's play areas) or integrated within 'healthy walks/leisure trails'.
8. That all services, including Tees Active, be encouraged to engage in regular consultation with Help the Aged, Age Concern, U3A, the Over 50's Assembly and other appropriate organisations regarding their service provision and that opportunities for joint publicity of activities be explored as part of this consultation.
9. That the availability of 'free swimming' from 1st April 2009 for a two year

period in any of the Council's pools for people over 60, be promoted in each of the Council's contact points and libraries.

10. That the Home Improvement Agency be asked to promote their service through other Older Peoples organisations including web links to other bodies.

11. That all Councillors be provided with information and criteria on the Handyperson Service in order to advertise its availability through their web pages and ward surgeries; together with information on free home fire and general safety checks.

12. That the Handyperson service be featured in a future edition of Stockton News and publicised through libraries.

13. That information on the Handyperson Service be made available through customer access points/call centre as part of the Access to Services Strategy.

14. That feedback from Renaissance on older peoples issues be provided on the Council's website in order to raise awareness of their work.

15. That information regarding benefits that could be applicable to older people be publicised on the Council's website, with other third sector organisations, Council contact points, Stockton News etc.

16. That the feedback from the Northern Housing Consortium consultation on the Age Friendly Community in the North be fed into the review stage of the Older People Strategy.

17. That the integration of services for older people as part of the Council's Access to Services Strategy, be endorsed.

18. That information regarding the Concessionary Fares Scheme continue to be promoted in each of the Council's contact points and libraries and on the Council's Website.

19. That the Stockton on Tees Public Transport Forum be promoted and that representations be made at this forum with a view to persuading bus companies to take appropriate action to improve their services in order to address the decline in bus patronage.

20. That the Council make appropriate representation, including through the Tees Valley Bus Users Forum, to ensure that bus companies make adequate provision to cater for visitors/patients in respect of the location of the new hospital at Wynyrd as well as existing hospitals already experiencing the effects of a reduction in bus services.

21. The proposed Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation Programme (EIT) review of the Council's Community Transport Service, along with the subsidy provided by the Council for public transport services and in respect of Concessionary Fares; be welcomed as a step towards ensuring that service efficiencies were maximised and that there was an appropriate amount of accessibility for those residents that relied on such transport.

22. That the Council's web site and other communication outlets be utilised to promote opportunities for public participation in voluntary and public organisations; as well as the available initiatives in support of older people in employment and enterprise.

23. That opportunities be taken to identify and promote community resourced based training providing basic IT skills/training (i.e how to use the internet, e-mail etc.) as opposed to more formal qualification based courses already provided.

24. That the criteria for the commissioning of services to address health inequality and promote well being be noted, along with the existence of those campaigns targeted specifically towards meeting older peoples needs.

25. That opportunities for the Council to participate in joint working on older people issues be further explored with Catalyst, Help the Aged, Age Concern and the U3A and other similar organisations.

26. That Stockton News and the Golden Guide document continue to be utilised to provide information, in easy to read language, promoting the activities and achievements of older people, and including details of Older Peoples services delivered, being prepared or planned for introduction at a future time, and that the Council seek to explore with Older People the level of interest/ need around 'drop in' meeting facilities for older people and to develop plans based on this feedback with partners.

27. That a dedicated Older Persons' information section be created on the Council's website, containing all relevant information highlighted in this review regarding Older Peoples services, activities and benefits and this area include links to the websites of other organisations working to support the needs of older people in the Borough.

28. That opportunities to promote Older Peoples issues, including those of partner organisations, continue to be identified as part of the Council's Access to Services strategy (paragraph 1.18 refers).

29. That Older Peoples organisations be consulted on the format and readability of the public summary Older Peoples Strategy to ensure that this is presented in clear and easy to understand language.

30. That consideration be given to the development of an Older Persons Elected Member Champion role to provide a focal point and be an advocate for promoting Older Peoples issues and that other key partner organisations be asked to consider adopting a similar role.

31. That the Council, in consultation with relevant partner organisations, look to champion Older People's issues through participation in the National Older People's Day in 2009.

CAB
26/09

Scrutiny Review of Highway Network Management

Consideration was given to a report that presented the findings of the Regeneration & Transport Select Committee following a review into Highways

Network Management, which took place between July 2008 and March 2009. The Committee considered evidence covering several key areas which, collectively, contribute towards the overall maintenance and operation of the Council's highway network, which covered roads and pavements maintenance. These included the Council's inspection and maintenance regime, finance, risk and insurance and working relationship with the utilities companies. The Committee considered evidence arising from residents' perceptions and experiences of the service and it also consulted with fellow Members and Parish and Town Councils. The review noted the high performance and satisfaction of highways, and the many areas of good practice in Stockton Borough.

It was noted that following consideration of the recommendations by Cabinet an Action Plan would be submitted to the Select Committee setting out how approved recommendations would be implemented, detailing officers responsible for action and timescales.

RESOLVED that: -

1. Highways officers issue Roadworks Reports to Ward, Parish and Town Council Members on a timely basis thereby ensuring Members are adequately briefed on highways schemes affecting their local area, and are able to provide suitable feedback to local residents as and when required.
2. Ward, Parish and Town Council Members are given the opportunity to accompany highways officers undertaking highway inspections or site specific inspections.
3. To enable Members make 'right first time' contact with the relevant service area, Members are provided with relevant contact details showing the best way to report defects (e.g. through the service area's generic email address).
4. Ward, Parish and Town Council Members reporting defects to highways officers are provided with adequate and timely feedback.
5. Highway Officers produce an annual report on the performance of Utility companies operating in the highway. The report should include numbers of sample and third party inspections undertaken, defective repairs, statutory notices issued and a summary account of income generated e.g. from fines.
6. Networks are developed with other highways authorities in the Tees Valley area and regionally to further enhance working relationships, share benchmarking data and to promote and disseminate best practice.
7. Members are kept fully up to date on highways policy through a programme that places highways policy documents on the Forward Plan, followed by Cabinet approval, and ensures copies of all Cabinet approved plans and strategies relating to the management and maintenance of the highway network are provided in the Members' library and that all new and updated versions are similarly made available.
8. The development of a fully integrated ICT Highway Asset Management system be investigated and procured to provide best value for the delivery of the highway service. This should include hand held devices for recording highway

condition and raising repair orders to allow for accurate, robust and reliable management information systems.

9. Briefing notes on the following highway-related subjects are provided in the Members' library and on the Council's intranet:

- A summary of the policy on highway repairs together with the criteria used to determine carriageway and footway maintenance and the priorities for repair.
 - The procedures for recording, processing and defending insurance claims received from members of the public as a result of damage to vehicles arising from road defects and injury claims resulting from falls on footpaths.
- These briefing notes will also help inform Members when responding to residents' questions and concerns raised in Ward surgeries.

10. Residents are provided with suitable information so they know who to contact if they are having problems with roads or pavements.

11. Opportunities to publicise and promote the Council's performance on highways are maximised through a series of positive news articles in Stockton News and on the Council website.

12. Officers explore the development of web-based systems (including those featuring web mapping) to report highways defects by Members and the general public, ensuring the system selected is both user friendly and easy to navigate.

**CAB
27/09**

Scrutiny Review of Pavement Parking

Consideration was given to a report that presented the findings of the Regeneration & Transport Select Committee following the review of Pavement Parking. During the course of the review the Committee considered a number of issues in relation to the problems caused by pavement parking including damage to pavements, kerbs and verges, and the views of the emergency services.

It was noted that following consideration of the recommendations by Cabinet an Action Plan would be submitted to the Select Committee setting out how approved recommendations would be implemented, detailing officers responsible for action and timescales.

RESOLVED that: -

1. Ward councillors and officers explore opportunities to use funding allocated under the Community Participation Budget scheme in conjunction with the Council's core budget for pavement repairs when considering applications to implement schemes to reduce damage and obstruction caused by parking on pavements and verges, ensuring funds are used effectively,
2. A priority rating system is devised to identify the residential areas worst affected by parking problems and assess what parking solutions are required in those areas.
3. The Head of Technical Services is requested to provide Members with details of the solutions currently available (including introducing or revoking Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs)), to address parking problems in areas where there

is significant inconvenience to residents. In addition, request the Head of Technical Services to consider the effectiveness of existing TROs introduced in problem areas.

4. A briefing guide is produced for Members which provides details of the roles and powers of the Council's Enforcement Officers in relation to pavement parking, including statutory and discretionary powers, practical procedures and enforcement action available, and explains and clarifies the distinction between the roles of the Council's Neighbourhood and Civil Enforcement Officers

5. To further improve the safety of the Borough's footways for both pedestrians and road users, highways inspectors undertake sample inspections in known problem areas to determine the actual number of illegal footway crossings and assess damage to the highway. The results of the inspections to be presented to the Committee at a later date for further consideration and to look at providing potential solutions.

6. The current practice of replacing flagstone pavements with bituminous materials in cases where this is the most appropriate form of treatment is incorporated into the Council's highways repairs policy.

7. Introducing a 'Think B4 U Park' campaign, to be promoted through Stockton News, public libraries, the Council's website, housing estate offices and other community outlets, to raise public awareness about the problems associated with pavement parking and damage to grassed areas, in particular:

- the damage it causes to footways;
- the cost of repairing damage;
- the inconvenience and risk caused to pedestrians, especially to older residents, the visually impaired, those in wheelchairs or mobility scooters and those using prams or pushchairs; and
- emphasising the fact that enforcement action will be taken against offenders, including drivers of heavy vehicles and those who park vehicles on grass verges or whose vehicles traverse over grassed areas, wherever this is possible and practicable.

8. Through the campaign identified in the above recommendation:

- provide clear guidelines where people should and should not park
- encourage drivers to park responsibly
- pilot residential areas with suitable publicity that encourages residents to offer practical solutions
- offer mediation in cases of dispute between parties requiring pavement parking in neighbourhood areas (e.g. in conjunction with UNITE, the mediation service)
- educate people who think they may be helping other road users by parking on the pavement into making them more aware of the potential problems
- encourage commercial vehicles (including Council vehicles where appropriate) to be left at business premises overnight rather than be brought home and parked on pavements in residential areas
- the guidelines provided draw on best practice at other local authorities.

9. Through initial and ongoing training, drivers of Council vehicles are instructed not to park or manoeuvre vehicles on footways wherever possible.

10. Local planning discretion on governing the allocation of garage space and parking requirements when new developments are proposed by private developers is reviewed.

11. The Annual Parking Report provides supplementary information on the problems associated with pavement parking across the Borough with details of subsequent follow up action taken as necessary. Details to be provided include particular problem areas, parking near schools, the number of official complaints made by the public and the nature and level of enforcement activity undertaken including official notices issued.

12. Suitable information is provided so residents know who to contact if they are having problems with poorly parked vehicles (links to the recommendation at paragraph 1.45).

13. The Council supports Help the Aged's National Falls Awareness Day by displaying the official falls day poster in key Council receptions.

14. Highways inspectors and Council Enforcement Officers continue to assess the condition of road markings across the Borough relating to vehicle parking activity.

15. The Council continues to promote its 'own brand' scheme notification signage to publicise the improvements being made to highways and footways for the benefit of local residents and the general public.

16. Officers approach the Stockton Community Residents Group Association (SCRAGA) to obtain their views on issues related to pavement parking, with a view to advising local residents on possible solutions.

**CAB
28/09**

Local Authority Representatives on School Governing Bodies

Members considered nominations for representative on school governing bodies in accordance with the procedure for the appointment of school governors, approved as Minute 84 of the cabinet (11th May 2000)

RESOLVED that the following appointments be made to the vacant Governorships in line with agreed procedures subject to successful List 99 check and Personal Disclosure:

Grangefield School – Cllr Aidan Cockerill

The Links Primary School – Professor A Omondi

**CAB
29/09**

Economic Climate Update Report

Consideration was given to a report that provided Members with an overview of the current economic climate, outlining the effects that this was having on Stockton Borough, the mitigations already in place and those being developed in response to this

A report was submitted to Cabinet in December 2008, which set the scene of the economic downturn, and the effects that the global recession and economic climate were having on businesses, rising unemployment, and mortgage repossession.

The monthly update report enabled a focussed account to be made of the changes to economic circumstances, the direct impact that this may be having on the Borough, and the responses and mitigations either in place or being developed to support businesses and residents. A summary was provided to members noting the economic changes and both the positive and negative of this that had occurred since their previous update on 16th April 2009.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The report be noted.
2. The work being undertaken be supported.

**CAB
30/09** **Integrated Health Care Facility**

Cabinet was presented with an update on the Stockton on Tees Teaching PCT's plans for an integrated health and care facility in Stockton and outlined the implications for services.

Hartlepool PCT and Stockton on Tees Teaching PCT, together with partner organisations, were committed to the improvement of patient care, the reduction in health inequality and improvement in health outcomes through the delivery of greater integration of health and social care services. In order to achieve this, the PCT's had ambitious plans for whole system re-design around care pathways, changes in working practices, and the development of the infrastructure from which to deliver care. The change programme Momentum: Pathways to Healthcare addressed the reconfiguration of care from the existing 2 hospital sites in Hardwick, Stockton and Hartlepool and the transfer of services to a single site in Wynyard. To effect this change additional services would need to be provided in new settings.

Both PCTs had recently received Board approval to its Strategic Outline Case (SOC) which encompassed the following:

- Re-providing and developing health and care facilities in Hartlepool, Stockton, Billingham and Yarm. This includes integrated care centres, which will provide a range of services traditionally delivered from an acute hospital setting such as outpatients, and diagnostics. Additionally, minor injury facilities will be developed at Hartlepool and Stockton.
- To maintain the pace of change and ensure service delivery continues to be improved, it is important for the Health Community to secure the capacity required to meet the needs of the local population are met now and in the future.
- To build on progress already made, including development and modernisation of General Practitioner facilities and considerable innovation in working practice.

As part of the plans to develop an integrated health care facility in Stockton the PCT considered and consulted on a range of locations. PCT plans indicated that the Alma Street site was their preferred option for the Stockton Integrated Care Centre. This was subject to affordability and value for money. The PCT Board had approved the preferred option site and would progress to its approval

process with the Full Business Case planned for sign off in February 2010.

Alma Street site had separate office accommodation (for approx 70 staff), a caretakers house and the Alma Centre - a day service facility for some adults with disabilities, older people and older people with mental health needs. The day service was one of three within Stockton on Tees run by Adult Operations, and was used by 70 clients per day.

The proposal to redevelop the Alma Street site would impact on the existing services. If PCT plans were realised then the Stage 2 Business Case would be approved by February 2010 and the developers would be keen to access the site from this date which had consequences for the re-provision of existing services.

The Workwise Strategy, agreed by Cabinet in April 2009, identified that opportunities would be taken to rationalise office accommodation. Work was also underway exploring funding opportunities for ISA staff, many of whom were currently based in Alma House and the impact of Alma House would be managed in this way. The caretaker's house would also need to be re-provided in line with terms and conditions of employment.

The existing day services would need to be re-provided. An exploration of alternative day service space had been undertaken. Upon review of the possible site options the Halcyon Centre in Thornaby had the physical capacity to extend its existing service and offer additional capacity to re-provide the existing service. This would enable the ongoing provision of day services for the clients that attend Alma in an appropriate facility.

In order to progress this change, consultation would be required with service users, carers and related stakeholders. Cabinet was asked to approve a period of consultation about the future service provision at Alma Street and re-provision of the service to the Halcyon Centre. Feedback from the consultation and any recommendations would be considered at the Cabinet meeting in July 2009.

The long term arrangements for day services would be subject to the Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation (EIT) review and the consultation would enable feedback to inform this part of the review

The costs of service re-provision would need to be considered as part of the financial implications and consideration of releasing the site. Detailed negotiations would be undertaken with PCT. The PCT would need to confirm its commitment to the site in advance of any capital expenditure in any service re-provision to ensure that the Council was not put at financial risk.

RESOLVED that: -

1. The contents of the report be noted.
2. A period of consultation about the future service provision at Alma Centre and the re-provision of the service to the Halcyon Centre, with service users, carers, staff and other relevant stakeholders was approved and consideration of feedback from the consultation and the subsequent recommendations be presented at the cabinet meeting in July 2009.

3. The Alma site was the preferred location for PCT development and progress negotiation for the sale of the site, subject to the costs associated with re-provision of Alma Street Day Centre be approved.
4. The positive steps in the development of the PCT's plans for new healthcare services in Stockton be noted.

**CAB
31/09** **Xentrall Annual Report**

Cabinet considered a report that presented the Xentrall Annual Report for 2008-2009.

It was explained that Xentrall Shared Services was an innovative public/public partnership between Stockton and Darlington Councils providing ICT, transactional finance and HR and Design and Print services to both Councils. The partnership business case previously approved by Members identified joint savings of £7.4m over 10 years and significant service improvements.

As part of the governance arrangements of the partnership, the Partnership Consultative Panel, which was made up of the relevant Cabinet Members and Directors from Stockton and Darlington and the Partnership Managers were required to present an annual report to each Council. The achievements delivered in year one of the Partnership were highlighted in the annual report.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**CAB
32/09** **Appointments to Outside Bodies**

Cabinet was requested to appoint Members to various outside bodies.

An updated version of the appendix, which had been issued with the agenda, was circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED that the appointments as detailed in the updated appendix be approved.

**CAB
33/09** **Minutes of Various Bodies**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meetings of Various Bodies

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following meetings be received/approved, as appropriate:-

Western Area Partnership Board 30 March 2009
Eastern Area Partnership Board 31 March 2009

**CAB
34/09** **The 2012 Olympic Games & Paralympic Games**

Consideration was given to a report that provided Members with the Vision, Aims and Proposals as to how Stockton Borough Council with its partners intended to exploit the benefits of the 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games for the benefit of the boroughs residents.

Stockton Borough Council and its partners in Stockton Renaissance recognised

the potential arising from the 2012 Olympic Games, Paralympic Games and the Cultural Olympiad. A broad range of benefits could be achieved across the 8 regional themes defined by the North East England Board of the Olympic Games. In Stockton it was believed the focus would be on three strategic priorities;

Strategic Priority 1

- To use the London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games, and the interest in sport & elite sports performers that it generates, to increase the number of people of all ages participating in sport and active leisure, towards health, wellbeing, and personal achievement objectives.

Strategic Priority 2

- To use the London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games, and the media and public discourse surrounding the Games, to highlight and celebrate positive national identities and shared values, in ways, which celebrate diversity and strengthen and connect communities locally.

Strategic Priority 3

- Promote awareness of the business opportunities associated with the London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games and enable Stockton and Tees Valley businesses to win direct and indirect new business, through coordination, support and brokerage, including the pursuit of Olympic & Paralympic Games training site opportunities.

Stockton Council would establish an Olympic & Paralympic Games Opportunities Group (OPGOG), bringing together a range of Council services and partners agencies, to oversee the development and implementation of an Olympic & Paralympic Games Opportunities Plan (OPGOP). The group would consist of officers from relevant services and representatives of local sports bodies such as Tees Valley Sport and the Community Sport Network. A draft Olympic & Paralympic Games Opportunities Plan would be presented to Cabinet in September.

The Group would also contribute to, and provide a focus for sub-regional and regional planning groups relating to the 2012 Games and relating to work in Stockton for the 8 Regional Olympic & Paralympic Games themes.

The funding strands and anticipated responses from Stockton Borough Council were outlined, and it was expected that the Opportunities Plan would expand upon these.

These programmes presented opportunities for external funding, but in many cases this would be in the form of match funding and would be relatively small sums. The OPPG would need to look at the leverage funding opportunities and further match funding requirements, helping the Council and its partners to prioritise its own limited resources.

Some 'new money' had already been provided by North Tees Primary Care Trust, for the first stage of a communication campaign to encourage more widespread participation in sport and active leisure, reflecting the joined-up approach of the Council and PCT in relation to the Health & Wellbeing agenda. It was intended to link this campaign to the Olympics and to seek to find further

match funding and sponsorship to sustain this campaign.

The policy should help to generate more examples of this sort of strategic responses to 2012, and to establish a consistent and incremental approach to changing lifestyles and improving the economic vitality of the area, on the back of Olympic interest.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The 3 strategic priorities for Stockton Borough Council in relation to the 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games, prioritizing business opportunities, fostering community cohesion, and the promoting active lifestyles for better health be approved.
2. The development of the 'Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Olympic & Paralympic Games Opportunities Plan' to enable officers to pursue and maximise the available opportunities be endorsed.

**CAB
35/09**

Stockton Town Centre and Riverside Sites Update

Consideration was given to a report that updated members on the progress of regeneration initiatives within the Stockton town centre/riverside area, and identified a series of priority interventions that would be taken forward for delivery to ensure the successful regeneration of the urban core of Stockton.

The Stockton Middlesbrough Initiative vision was to create a city scale environment at the heart of the Tees Valley City Region that would radically transform the environment, economy and image of the place. In order for this to be achieved, a multi-faceted approach to regenerating the urban core of the Borough that encompasses the key areas of housing, health, education, business and leisure must be undertaken.

Following the completion of the Stockton Town Centre Study, a range of recommendations emerged which would play an integral part in raising the economic performance of the town centre. These recommendations were being integrated into an Investment Plan, for the combined town centre and riverside areas, to be undertaken by consultants Genecon as an extension of economic appraisal work which began in 2008.

A number of priority interventions were being taken forward and integrated into the investment plan, which would sit alongside wider developments and initiatives in housing, health education and leisure. It was important that investment and developments were planned and phased so that they were complementary rather than competing for their position within the market, and support the regeneration of the town centre / riverside area. The interventions had therefore been broken down into short term over the next twelve months, medium term within the next five years and long term between the next 5 and 15 years.

RESOLVED that:-

1. the priorities emerging for the town centre/riverside area be approved;
2. the principle of taking forward economic testing of the combined emerging

- options for the town centre/riverside area be approved;
3. the continued engagement and support of investors and developers in the development of the town centre/riverside area be approved; and
 4. a future report be received setting out the findings of the Investment Plan.

RECOMMENDED to Council to:-

5. agree to commit up to £150,000 of available 'one-off' funding to support short-term initiatives in Stockton and Billingham town centres helping to offset high street vacancies and supporting the recent 'Looking after our town centres' CLG proposals.

**CAB
36/09**

Integrated Health and Social Care Facility, Billingham

Cabinet was presented with a formal update regarding the proposal for an Integrated Health and Social Care Facility in Billingham.

It was explained that the Council had committed to submit the Outline Business Case (OBC), which would finalise details of the scheme objectives and deliverables; and confirm costs, funding sources and affordability, including demonstration of value for money to the Department of Health (DH) by the end of March 2010.

Cabinet was informed that the key steps identified included the following:

- i. Establishment of a project team and the project parameters
- ii. Establish strategic and business needs of all partners
- iii. Identify, evaluate and mitigate project risks, opportunities and key milestones for all partners
- iv. Appoint advisors / consultants
- v. Clarify objectives and test suitability
- vi. Appraise project and possible procurement routes
- vii. Complete financial appraisal
- viii. Gain Stakeholder and Member approvals
- ix. Ensure land assembly
- x. Secure Planning permission

The Council had recently been notified that their allocation in principle had been increased to £35.155M of PFI credits (as per the original Expression of Interest EoI submission) and officers were now working to produce a Project Initiation Document (PID) and a more detailed and timetabled programme, the latter of which would be submitted to DH.

Furthermore a project team and board had been agreed and initial work identifying the strategic and business needs of the development was underway.

It was noted that a procurement strategy would be completed which would address competing procurement issues and ensure the needs of both the Council and Teaching Primary Care Trust (TPCT) were met, whilst satisfying the objectives set out in the EoI.

4Ps, the local government partnership and project delivery specialist had discussed the use of their Gateway Reviews to help enable a successful OBC and subject to OBC approval, a final check before Financial Close. Cabinet was

informed that the first gateway, Gate 1, was a peer review of the final draft OBC prior to submission to DH. It consisted of a 3 day review by a peer organisation which had previously completed a successful PFI. The cost of the review would be shared between the Council and DH with the costs to the Council anticipated at £7,500 (per review).

It was explained that as with any major project and investment opportunity, there would be costs associated with developing the scheme proposal. Although project management support had been identified internally (estimated 80% capacity of (Billingham) Regeneration Projects Manager) there would be costs of 'back filling' this role. A funding requirement of £50,000 p/a for 2 years had been identified to enable the fulfilment of Regeneration Projects Officer and Manager roles. Financial management support for the project had been identified via existing internal resource.

There would also be external financial, legal and technical support requirements to finalise the procurement route and develop the OBC. The Council had estimated that £170,000 was required for the support. This included the commission of 4Ps in a consultancy capacity working with the Council to progress the OBC at a capped fee of no more than £20,000.

Once the procurement route had been determined, and subject to OBC approval, costs associated with the actual procurement route were estimated in the region of £500,000 plus. It was noted that elements of these costs could be capitalised as part of the scheme and considered in the overall funding package.

It was noted that at present management costs associated with delivery i.e. building works were unknown although it was noted that following Financial Close any resource costs could be capitalised and met from the PFI Credits.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the advertisement for and appointment of a Regeneration Projects Officer to support (whole) scheme development be authorised.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the report be noted and that authorisation be given for £270,000 to be funded from the one off resources outlined in the MTFP report (Cabinet February), required to develop the Outline Business Case, provide project management support and finalise the procurement route, as identified in sections 15-17 and summarised in section 21.