

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2007/08
SUGGESTED REVIEW – PRO FORMA**

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

REVIEW OF AREA PARTNERSHIPS & THEIR SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

Area Partnerships have an important role within Stockton Renaissance. Community Partnerships and Residents Associations feed into the Area Partnership Boards who underpin the Stockton Renaissance process. The Area Partnerships bring together representatives from the voluntary and community sector, local business, local agencies and residents associations to give local people a chance to influence services provided within their area.

Key concerns

The key concerns relating to this review are that we need to be able to support the Area Partnerships to fully represent their constituent areas and to operate effectively through:

- the election process;
- feedback mechanisms; and
- secretariat support arrangements.

This will help inform the future governance arrangements for each of the Area Partnerships.

Outcome for scrutinising the topic

The outcome for this topic should result in improved governance arrangements for the Area Partnerships and support arrangements for the future.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK
PROCESS.

PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

The Area Partnerships cover a large geographical area, and represent a range of representatives from the Voluntary and Community sector, local business, local agencies and residents associations to give local people a chance to influence services provided within their area.

The Area Partnerships also have elected ward councillors on the partnership who represent both their constituents and the Council.

The Area Partnerships act as an advocate for their areas; therefore there is a public interest in the role of the partnership. The Area Partnership meetings are open to members of the public to attend if they wish to.

The Area Partnership's have also been involved in participatory budgeting, which has empowered them to commission interventions to address their Neighbourhood

Renewal and Local Transport Plan priorities.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

The Area Partnerships are responsible for:

- Providing a local area based forum to consider regeneration issues to assist the LSP in the development and implementation of strategies for the borough;
- Providing a structure to link with the thematic partnerships and the opportunity for community and voluntary sector representatives, representatives from ward councillors and people from the private sector to work with service providers to improve service delivery in the Area Partnership areas.

The Area Partnerships have the potential to have a significant influence on strategy and service delivery in their areas for example their involvement in developing the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-21 or when the Primary Care trust (PCT) introduced locality teams which are co-terminus with the Area Partnership boundaries.

The Area Partnership's have also been involved in participatory budgeting, which has empowered them to commission over £380,000 worth of interventions to address their Neighbourhood Renewal and Local Transport Plan priorities. In 2006/07, this included the Area Partnership Boards being allocated £20,000 of capital funding from the Local Transport Capital Programme to enable Board members to identify priorities. For 2007/08 this has increased to £25,000, to reflect the success of this initiative and to encourage increased participation in the process. This demonstrates the high level of impact that the Area Partnerships have within their areas.

Council performance in this area if known:

In 2007 an independent LSP Peer review also took place. Feedback concluded that Stockton Renaissance is absolutely clear that the ethos of the partners is focused around the Borough, its people and its future and this is reflected in the pride in their achievements and confidence in their ability to make further improvements in the future. The IDeA also noted "*Stockton Renaissance is a strong, outcome-focussed partnership, which is well led and has a clear short/medium and long-term vision*".

Stockton Renaissance achieved a Green rating in the Government Office North East 2006 LSP assessment.

Across the borough there is optimism about the future where 26% believe the borough will improve but in neighbourhood renewal areas this rises to 41%.

Nationally and locally there has been a dip in those that agree they can influence their local area- In 2001, nationally 44% of citizens agreed that they could influence their local area however; in 2004 this had dropped to 38%. (Source: Citizenship Survey.) Locally- In the IPSOS MORI Survey (2006) 23% of residents agreed that they felt that they could personally influence decisions affecting their local area compared to 25% in 2004.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

There are no other reviews of this nature-taking place with the Area Partnerships. A copy of the Councils consultation plan is a standard item taken to the Area Partnerships to avoid duplication and to provide an opportunity for members to

comment on other areas of consultation where appropriate.

Signed: Helen Dean

Date: March 08

Office Use:

Pick score:

Considered by SLF: