

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

2008- 11

DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

Version 1 w/c 07/01/08

Introduction

Stockton Renaissance is our Local Strategic Partnership which brings together key public, private and voluntary agencies and the Community Empowerment Network which brings together all of the voluntary and community groups in the Borough. We have a duty to prepare a Sustainable Community Strategy which outlines how we will work together to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of our area. During the summer of 2007 Stockton Renaissance listened to all residents, communities and key partners in our borough and agreed the key themes for this new, longer term Sustainable Community Strategy.

Our Vision

Stockton-on-Tees is a diverse borough with a thriving population of more than 187,000 people within easy reach of city shopping and leisure facilities, the coast and rural North Yorkshire. A mixture of urban centres, market towns and villages and with an expanding University, Stockton-on-Tees is a place with an exciting future.

We are committed both to economic regeneration through redeveloping our town centres, improving our transport and increasing the number and quality of jobs available in our borough and to improving quality of life by regenerating local communities and providing opportunities and services for individuals. This will help us to achieve our long term and continued vision of "promoting achievement: tackling disadvantage."

Stockton-on-Tees: The Facts

Our People

Stockton has a population of 187,300 people who live in 77,600 households, which has risen by almost 7% since 1991 with the rest of the North East seeing a fall of 3%. People of working age account for 63% of the population, Children (those under 16) 20% and retired people 18%. Like the rest of the country, Stockton's population is ageing with there being increasing numbers of older people and fewer children. At the time of the 2001 Census almost 3% of our population were from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, a figure which is increasing. 66% of our residents feel that Stockton is a place where people of different backgrounds get on well together, but we wish to increase the number of people who feel they can influence decisions which affect their area. Whilst 20% of residents having a long term illness which limits their day-to-day activities, people in Stockton continue to get healthier but deaths from heart disease and cancer are still above the national average, as are the number of smokers.

In May 2007 there were 3,615 people claiming Job Seekers Allowance in Stockton, giving an unemployment rate of 3.1%, lower than the north east average but higher than the national figure. Our schools continue to improve and over recent years we have seen better results at GCSE and Key Stages 3 and 4. 25% of Stockton residents have a degree or professional qualification, a rate which is only slightly below the national level. Both employment rates and educational achievement vary across the borough.

Stockton residents are happy with the borough as a place to live, 84% being positive in 2006, but this figure varies across the borough and we will work towards all residents being proud of where they live and Stockton-on-Tees as a whole.

Our Place

The quality of our environment has improved from being named one of the dirtiest towns in England in 2001, we were named one of the cleanest boroughs in 2006, winning the prestigious Britain in Bloom competition a year later. We have the highest rate of two car ownership in the North East at 22% and continue to improve our roads network such as the South Stockton link. However, we are committed to improving our public transport to ensure we do not become reliant on the private car. We have also regenerated large amounts of our housing stock with regeneration activities well under way in Mandale, Hardwick, Parkfield and Mill Lane.

Crime rates continue to fall within Stockton which now has the lowest crime rate in the Tees Valley and significantly fewer people now feel unsafe when outside during the day. However, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, as well as people's fear of crime remains a key priority.

The River Tees continues to be a key focal point for the borough, now providing an exciting choice of recreation and sporting activities, including sailing, kayaking and fishing. We have world leading cultural activities such as Stockton International Riverside Festival and Billingham International Folklore Festival as well as ARC, Billingham Forum, Preston Hall Museum and our excellent parks and countryside facilities.

Our Ambitions

The Community Strategy has been developed along five key and three supporting themes. Whilst these are described individually there are key links between them all and only by working in partnership across Renaissance and its thematic partnerships will we successfully achieve our ambitions.

Key Theme: Economic Regeneration and Transport

Our ambition is for a Stockton-on-Tees which is at the heart of an economically successful Tees Valley, which offers high employment levels and improved facilities for shopping, recreation and leisure. One of our key targets is to ensure we have **vibrant and successful town centres** in each

of our communities, concentrating on Stockton, Billingham and Thornaby but also our smaller town centres and markets across the borough. We will have a **strong local economy with better jobs and improved employability** through further developing our existing employment base as well as attracting new employers to the borough making sure our residents have the necessary skills and qualifications to secure the new jobs created. We will develop **improved city-scale facilities** across the Tees Valley to ensure that we have shopping, leisure and residential facilities in the area to rival any city and make **better use of the River Tees** as a leisure facility through iconic projects such as the new footbridge and ambitious Green Blue heart initiative to develop excellent green space between Stockton and Middlesbrough with the Tees at its heart. Finally, we will develop **improved transport networks** by further developing our road network but also our public transport provision to ensure that Stockton-on-Tees remains an area with low congestion and not one which is reliant only on the private car.

Environment and Housing

We have a vision for a cleaner, greener Stockton which leads the UK in waste minimisation, has excellent parks and green spaces and the highest quality housing provision. We will have neighbourhoods in which our residents feel pride and have a real sense of belonging and ownership. We will **improve waste management** by continuing to develop our approach to waste minimisation and recycling and **create better open spaces** by further developing both our large flagship parks as well as our smaller neighbourhood green spaces and urban grey spaces, such as town and neighbourhood centres. We will **tackle climate change** by preparing for potential changes in the services we deliver and how we deliver them as well as trying to reduce our own carbon footprint. We will continue to **improve our housing** carrying on our regeneration activities to offer people the homes they want to live in through regeneration, redevelopment and having sites ready for new developments where needed. We will **deliver design quality** in our new developments, processing planning applications as efficiently as possible but ensuring that new buildings meet the need and aspirations of our communities.

Safer Communities

Our vision is for a safe Stockton where all residents are able to live their lives in a borough free from crime and fear of crime. We will **reduce crime and fear of crime** building on the success we have already had, which makes Stockton-on-Tees the borough with the lowest crime rate, concentrating on further reducing the violent crime and arson rates. We will **reduce anti-social behaviour** and residents concerns about it. Also we will **reduce the impact of alcohol and drugs misuse** tackling the supply and use of illegal drugs, and increase the numbers of drug users receiving treatment.

Children and Young People

Our vision across the whole borough is that no child is left behind and that all grow up in loving, stable and safe environments, having the opportunities to achieve their full potential. We will help our children and young people **be healthy** by tackling childhood obesity, reducing teenage conception rates, reducing substance misuse and helping to support and develop emotional and mental health. It is vitally important that children and young people grow up in a caring environment which ensures they **stay safe** at all times, this is particularly important for children looked after by the local authority and ensuring their long term stability and securing a placement quickly, is a key priority as is supporting them into education, employment or training on leaving care. Helping our young people, but particularly those who experience disadvantage, **enjoy and achieve** is a key priority. We will support all our young people to meet their full potential by providing a wide range of educational opportunities. **Making a positive contribution** is important to our young people and we will seek to continually develop our positive activities and facilities, such as Sure Start Children's Centres, for young people making them as accessible, challenging and enjoyable as possible. Finally we will help our young people achieve **economic well-being**, eliminating poverty for young people and helping school leavers to access further education, employment and training.

Healthier Communities and Adults

Our vision is for a healthier Stockton where all residents are able to take control of their own physical and mental health and wellbeing, through living healthy and active lifestyles and having easy access to high quality health services when ill-health does occur. We will **reduce health inequalities** both between Stockton and the rest of the UK, for example through the promotion of breast feeding, but also between the most and least well off areas of our borough. We will support and **increase the independence of vulnerable people**, helping older people remain in their own homes longer by making adaptations and tackling social isolation. We will also seek to develop our support for carers, recognising the important role they play. **Increased choice and voice for service users** is also important and we will ensure people have a choice in the care they receive and how it is delivered, capitalising on new initiatives such as direct payments. The future of health will be both prevention and cure, as such we will work to **improve access to health facilities** as well as **promote healthy living**.

Stronger Communities

Our vision is for a stronger and more cohesive society where there is a common sense of belonging for all communities and one where the diversity of people's backgrounds is appreciated and positively valued, where there is **strong community involvement** in public life and where there is a strong and vibrant community and voluntary sector. We will seek to **increase community pride, promote equality of opportunity** and **reduce tension and myth bust** to help all our communities to continue living peacefully. Also we will ensure **financial inclusion** for all residents to ensure they are not

denied any of the opportunities our increasingly vibrant borough is offering and tackling fuel poverty to ensure their homes are warm and comfortable.

Older Adults

Our vision is that older people in Stockton grow older with dignity and maintain a high quality and independent lifestyle. This includes ensuring **older adults are at the heart of community leadership and development** exercising **real choice, control and having easy access to facilities and services** within a warm and **welcoming community**. we will also help older people look after and **improve their personal wellbeing** through the provision of high quality health and social care, lifelong learning, leisure and cultural activities.

Arts and Culture

Our vision is of culture supporting all aspects of life in our borough. We will use the arts, music, theatre, film and sport to promote quality of life, aspiration and pride in our borough. We will **promote our festivals, the performing and visual arts, sport and leisure and raise the profile of our heritage** to celebrate the unique history of Stockton and our people.

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Local Area Agreement 2008-11

In 2006 the Government published Strong and Prosperous Communities – the Local Government white paper that set out the vision for the new relationship between central and local government. Local Area Agreements play a vital part in putting the detail of devolutionary powers, detailed in the White Paper, into practice.

Though the Council is expected to be the accountable body for the Local Area Agreement, the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill introduces two duties on other public sector bodies in relation to LAAs:

- To have due regard to targets included in the LAA
- To co-operate in the development of the LAA

These sit alongside duties for councils to work with partners in developing the local area agreement, ensure it meets the requirements of government guidance and supports the community strategy.

This local Area Agreement will form the heart of a new local performance framework for the area. It will help deliver, for the Council and its partners, a vision for the area and its people, as set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy. The Local Area Agreement will become the 3 year delivery plan for the Sustainable Community Strategy and will form a contract between central government, ourselves and our partners, to improve the quality of life in our locality.

In November 2007 a new performance framework for Local Authorities was introduced. This framework is based on a set of 198 performance indicators. The indicator set is designed to monitor activity and progress of both the council and its partners in the delivery of local priorities. Up to 35 of these measures can be selected for inclusion in the LAA for 2008 -11. The selection of these measures and targets set against them form the negotiation between central government and the local area. In addition to these measures a further 16 statutory education and child care indicators and targets will be included.

The Local Area Agreement can also include a set of local measures to monitor progress against any areas not covered by the National Indicator Set or that better reflect what matters to us locally. The numbers of local measures is unlimited however only meaningful measures should be included.

Approach to developing the LAA

During the summer of 2007, The Renaissance Local Strategic Partnership undertook extensive consultation and engagement in the development of our Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 -2021. This resulted in a long term vision for the area, highlighting priority themes and long term goals for the achievement of this vision. This consultation was also utilised to inform the

basis of our thinking for the development of the LAA as the first 3 year delivery plan of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Along with the suggestions collated through the consultation and engagement exercise consideration of the new indicator set was undertaken to determine appropriate measures for inclusion.

Ongoing Monitoring

Robust Local Performance Management arrangements need to be in place to enable the Local authority and our partners to work towards the delivery of the outcomes and targets we have agreed. The LAA will be integrated as part of the Local Performance Management Framework and as such will be monitored on a quarterly basis and reported to the Renaissance Board, the Local Public Services Board, Cabinet and Executive Scrutiny committee. Government Office North East will receive quarterly updates and will be continually involved in the development and monitoring of the Local Area Agreement.

Annual Review

The LAA will be subject to an annual review by Government Office North East. This will be in conjunction with the Local Authority and its partners drawing on inspector's independent assessments undertaken through the Comprehensive Area Assessment process. Re- negotiation of LAA improvement targets will be undertaken as necessary as part of this annual review to reflect changing priorities for improvement.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Economic Regeneration and Transport

NI 151	Overall employment rate.	P
NI 153	Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods	*
NI 162	Learners achieving an Entry level 3 qualification in numeracy.	P
NI 165	Working age population qualified to at least Level 4 qualification or higher.	P
NI 171	VAT registration rate	*
NI 176	Working age people with access to employment by public transport (and other specified modes).	P

Environment and Housing

NI 157	Processing of planning applications as measured against targets for 'major', 'minor' and 'other' application types	*
NI 159	Supply of ready to develop housing sites.	P
NI 185	CO ₂ reduction from Local Authority operations.	P
NI 187	Tackling fuel poverty – people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating	*
NI 188	Adapting to climate change	*
NI 195	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly posting)	*
NI 198	Children traveling to school – mode of travel usually used	*

Safer Communities

NI 15	Serious violent crime rate	*
NI 17	Perceptions of anti-social behaviour	*
NI 25	Satisfaction of different groups with the way the police and local council dealt with anti-social behaviour	P
NI 33	Arson incidents	P
NI 40	Drug users in effective treatment.	*
NI 42	Perceptions of drug use or drug dealing as a problem	*

Children and Young People

NI 50	Emotional health of children	*
NI 51	Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHs) services	*
NI 53	Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth	*
NI 54	Services for disabled children	*
NI 55	Obesity among primary school age children in Reception Year	P
NI 56	Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6.	P
NI 59	Initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral	*
NI 63	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement	*
NI 80	Achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19.	P
NI 81	Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19.	P
NI 109	Number of Sure Start Children centres	*
NI 110	Young people's participation in positive activities	*
NI 112	Under 18 conception rate	*
NI 116	Proportion of children in poverty.	P
NI 117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)	*
NI 148	Care leavers in employment, education or training	*

Healthier Communities and Adults

NI 123	16+ current smoking rate prevalence	*
NI 130	Social Care clients receiving Self Directed Support (Direct Payments and Individual Budgets)	*
NI 132	Timeliness of social care assessment	*
NI 135	Carers receiving needs assessment or review and a specific carer's service, or advice and information	*

Stronger Communities

NI 1	Percentage of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area.	*
NI 4	Percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality.	*
NI 5	Overall/general satisfaction with local area	*
NI 7	Environment for a thriving third sector	P

Older Adults

NI 121	Mortality rate from all circulatory diseases at ages under 75	*
NI 142	Number of vulnerable people who are supported to maintain independent living	*

Arts and Culture

NI 11	Engagement in the Arts	*
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- * Preferred Indicators
- P Potential Indicators

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