



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Chief Executive's Directorate
Town Hall, Stockport SK1 3XE
Contact: Steve Worthington on 0161 474 3239
Email: steve.worthington@stockport.gov.uk
Web: www.stockport.gov.uk/democracy

Scrutiny Committee

AGENDA

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Committee Rooms 1&2
Town Hall
Stockport

Meeting: Thursday 8 April 2010
Tea: 5.00 pm
Business: 6.00 pm

Substitutes

Councillors who require a substitute to be appointed should inform Democratic Services by 4.00 pm on Tuesday 6 April 2010. Councillors who wish to arrange their own substitute should inform Democratic Services of the name of their substitute prior to the commencement of the meeting.

1. MINUTES

(Enclosed)

To approve as a correct record and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2010.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors and officers to declare any interest which they may have in any of the items on the agenda for this meeting (including whipping declarations)

3. CALL-IN

To consider any call-in items

4. TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS REPORT

(Enclosed)

At its meeting held on 1 December 2009 the Stepping Hill Area Committee resolved:

'That the Environment & Economy Scrutiny Committee be informed of this Area Committee's concerns about the cost to the Council for the advertising of traffic regulation orders, and that they be requested to consider whether the current arrangements were cost effective.'

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee agreed to receive a report on this request from the Stepping Hill Area Committee. This report is a joint report of the Corporate Directors of Communities, Regeneration & Environment and Business Services. 2

The Committee is requested to note and comment on the report.

Officer contact: Ian Thompson Tel: 474 4804 email: ian.thompson@stockport.gov.uk

5. COMPLETED SCRUTINY REVIEWS PROGRESS REPORT (Enclosed)

To consider a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Democracy).

The Committee considers progress reports on an annual basis; this not only enables the Committee to monitor progress towards implementing agreed recommendations but also provides the Committee with an opportunity to monitor the effectiveness of its recommendations.

The Committee is invited to consider and comment upon progress made.

Officer contact: David Tomlinson, Tel: 474 1634, email: david.tomlinson@stockport.gov.uk

6. PARTNERSHIP REPORTING TO SCRUTINY (Enclosed)

To update the Scrutiny Committee on a review of existing governance arrangements and the relationship between the Stockport Partnership with associated thematic boards, and Scrutiny Committees. To propose enhanced reporting arrangements between these partnerships and the associated Scrutiny Committees.

The Scrutiny Committee is invited to comment on the proposals.

Officer contact: Joanna Foskett Tel: 474 3174 email: joanna.foskett@stockport.gov.uk

7. AGENDA PLANNING

To consider a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy & Democracy) (Enclosed)

The report sets out planned agenda items for the Scrutiny Committee's next meeting and Forward Plan items that fall within the remit of the Scrutiny Committee.

The Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider the information in the report and put forward any agenda items for future meetings of the Scrutiny Committee.

Officer Contact: David Tomlinson, Tel: 0161 218 1634, e mail:
david.tomlinson@stockport.gov.uk

Agenda Officer Contact: David Clee on 474 3137, e-mail: david.clee@stockport.gov.uk
or Fax: 0161 474 3240

If you require a copy of the agenda or a particular report(s) by e mail or in large print, braille or audio, please contact the above person for further details. A minicom facility is available on 0161 474 3128.

A loop system is available in the meeting rooms in the Town Hall. Please contact the Town Hall Reception on 0161 474 3251 for further details.

A free interpreting service is available if you need help with this information. Please telephone Stockport Interpreting Unit on 0161 477 9000. Email: eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk

如果你需要他人為你解釋這份資料的內容，我們可以提供免費的傳譯服務，請致電 0161 477 9000 史托波特傳譯部。

W przypadku gdybyś potrzebował pomocy odnośnie tej informacji, dostępne są usługi tłumaczeniowe. Prosimy dzwonić do Interpreting Unit pod numer 0161 477 9000.

যদি এই খবরগুলি সম্পর্কে আপনার কোন সাহায্য দরকার হয় তবে বিনা খরচে আপনার জন্য দোভাষীর ব্যবস্থা করা হতে পারে। মেহেরবানী করে স্টকপোর্ট ইন্টারপ্রিটিং ইউনিটে ফোন করুন টেলিফোন নম্বর, 0161 477 9000.

اگر آپ کو ان معلومات کے بارے میں مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو مفت ترجمانی کی سروس دستیاب ہے۔ براہ مہربانی انٹرپرائٹنگ یونٹ کو 0161 477 9000 پر فون کریں۔

خدمات ترجمہ رایگان این اطلاعات در صورت نیاز موجود میباشد. لطفاً با شماره تلفن 0161 477 9000 یا واحد ترجمہ (اینترپرائٹنگ یونٹ) ما تماس بگیرید.

تنوفر خدمت ترجمہ شفویة اذا تطلبت مساعدة في فهم هذا المعلومات. نرجو الاتصال اربن رینیول علی رقم الهاتف: 0161 477 9000

ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting: 18 February 2010
At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Wendy Meikle (Chair) in the chair; Councillor Roy Driver (Vice Chair); Councillors Andrew Bispham, Philip Harding, Mick Jones, Syd Lloyd, Wendy Orrell, Andrew Verdeille and Craig Wright.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 20 January 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

3. CALL-IN

There were no items to consider.

4. THIRD QUARTER 2009/2010 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Corporate Director, Communities, Environment and Regeneration submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing a detailed overview of performance which related to this Committee. Information provided was taken from the Council's Third Quarter Corporate Performance Report including specific detail and information relating to the Council's 'Attractive and Thriving' and 'Leading Green Borough' priorities, supported by relevant performance indicator information.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- The impressive number of visitors to the arts and cultural attractions was commented upon.
- Support was expressed for the refurbishment of the former Peaches night club building.
- It was disappointing that the Merseyway Car park would not be refurbished this financial year.
- It was pleasing that Harvest Housing had announced the creation of 60 jobs at St Christopher's House.
- Reference was made to the significant reductions in the revenue from Penalty Charge Notices and Pay and Display parking compared to previous years.
- The Committee discussed when they could be advised of the situation with regard to firms moving into empty retail outlets in the borough.
- The roll-out of the new waste bins and the affect on recycling indicators.
- The reduction in the average days for the rectification of street lighting faults and whether the targets should be reviewed (BV215a and BV215b).

- More information was requested on how the target was calculated regarding the percentage of non-principal classified roads ('B' and 'C' roads) where maintenance should be considered. (NI 169 and BV224a).
- The works to illuminate Stockport viaduct and the town centre festive lights were praised.
- The 10% increase in the market footfall during the period was highlighted.
- The condition of the roads and pavements in the context of monies allocated in the capital programme for highways and footpaths maintenance were discussed.
- A Member asked for further information on road casualties in the high risk groups such as young people, elderly people and cyclists.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

5. THIRD QUARTER 2009/2010 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Corporate Director, Communities, Environment and Regeneration and a representative of the Corporate Director, Business Services submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) of the Corporate Director, Business Services updating the Committee on the Revenue Budget in the Third Quarter of 2009/2010.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- the current situation with regard to the affect of the reduction in car parking income on the Revenue Budget and enforcement in the Council's pay and display car parks.
- The reduction in the number of staff in the car parking section.
- More information was requested on the review of priority initiatives funding during 2009/10.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

6. THIRD QUARTER 2009/2010 CAPITAL PROGRAMME REPORT

The Corporate Director, Communities, Environment and Regeneration and a representative of the Corporate Director, Business Services submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) of the Corporate Director, Business Services updating the Committee on the Capital Programme outturn in the third quarter of 2009/2010.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- The expectation that funding will reduce by 30% when the new Local Transport Plan starts in 2011/12.
- The comparatively small scale of the regeneration capital programme.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. WINTER MAINTENANCE IN THE RECENT COLD SPELL

A representative of the Corporate Director, Communities, Regeneration and Environment submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) in connection with the way the Council dealt with the recent cold spell.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- Members thanked the staff who had undertaken the gritting of the roads in the very cold weather.
- All the roads in the priority routes needed to be prioritised in such severe conditions, but there would, of course, be resource implications. The Council needed one plan for a severe winter and another plan for a less severe winter.
- Members discussed the merits or otherwise of holding a discussion forum to which all Members would be invited. In this way areas could be highlighted which would benefit from being gritted, but currently were a low priority under the policy, for example roads with a steep gradient. Other Members felt that the discussions could better take place at the Area Committees. It was also suggested that if a meeting did take place it should be take the form of a winter forum, with the NHS and other partners invited to discuss the delivery of services in the very cold weather.
- There was possibly the need to have discussions with neighbouring authorities.
- The gritting of a footbridge in Woodley had opened up an area for elderly people to be able to reach local facilities. Other examples such as this could be looked at next time there was a cold spell.
- A request for grit bins to be put near local shopping areas and car parks. Problems had been encountered when the grit in the grit bins had frozen. A useful suggestion had been made at the Area Committees for it to be made clear on the grit bins that they were for public use.
- Where the grit could be stored and, if so, for how long and where.
- A perception that the communication of information which had been very good at the start of the cold weather, had not been as helpful at the start of the Christmas period.
- Although main roads were kept open, a lot of people were unable to move their vehicles from the minor roads on which they lived.
- As the snow had been the worst for thirty years, the Council had to consider whether to prepare itself for a similar winter next year or whether to take the view that the weather was as unlikely to be as severe next winter.
- The community spirit demonstrated in the borough had generally been very good.
- The use of farmers in the more rural areas of the borough to assist with snow clearance could be considered, as had taken place in other boroughs.
- Issues had occurred where Members had requested changes to Officers operational priorities and this had caused problems.

Over the coming months the Council would reflect on the events in the winter and the comments/observations received in order to determine if any further adjustments could be made to improve the Council's response to extreme and severe weather events. Any adjustments identified would be incorporated within the 2010/11 Winter Maintenance Plan.

RESOLVED – That Members' comments be considered, along with other comments received, in determining if any further adjustments can be made to improve the Council's response to extreme and severe weather events.

8. CRIME PREVENTION ON PUBLIC FOOTPATHS POLICY

A representative of the Corporate Director, Communities, Regeneration and Environment submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) which provided Members with a summary of the outcomes of the review of the Crime Prevention on Public Rights of Way Policy and Crime Prevention on Adopted Highways (other than carriageways) and Unadopted Carriageway Policy.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- Reference was made to Policy CPF7 that approval must be obtained from emergency services and any statutory undertakers with regard to ownership or responsibility for the management of any apparatus on or near to the route proposed for closure.
- Concerns was expressed that Members were not receiving the Minutes of meetings of the Positive Path Management Group as stated in its terms of reference. Members had a significant role in proposing whether certain footpaths should be considered for closure.
- Whether the British Motorcycle Federation should be included in the list of bodies advised of Gating Orders.

RESOLVED – That that the report be noted.

9. RÉSUMÉ OF THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP – 7 DECEMBER 2009

Councillor Stuart Bodsworth, the Chair of the Environment Partnership, submitted a resume (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting of the Environment Partnership held on 7 December 2009.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- Reference was made to the Green Keynesian Building Project which was an initiative led by the Director of Public Health at NHS Stockport to explore the feasibility of developing a proposal to put to the Bank of England as a potential mechanism for drawing down quantitative easing finance to a local level.
- The potential of using the Future Jobs Fund in order to facilitate the establishment of supervised work teams to install a series of carbon management and retrofitting measures in existing homes.
- The baseline for the 10:10 Climate Change Campaign which the Council had signed up to.

RESOLVED – That the résumé of the meeting held on 7 December, 2009 be noted.

10. FUTURE STOCKPORT REGENERATION PLAN: ANNUAL REVIEW 2009 AND ACTION PLAN 2010

A representative of the Service Director, Regeneration submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) seeking comments from the Committee on the draft annual review of the Council's Town Centre and M60 Gateway Regeneration Strategy. The Executive Councillor (Regeneration) updated Members of the Committee on progress on the key regeneration projects in the borough.

It was then

MOVED AND SECONDED

That in order to allow the possible disclosure of confidential and commercially sensitive information relating to the financial and business affairs of developers, the public be excluded from the remainder of this item.

The motion was then put to the vote.

For the motion 3, against 4, abstentions 2

MOTION NOT CARRIED.

A named vote was requested in relation to the voting on this motion and the voting was recorded as follows:-

The Councillors who voted for the motion were Councillors Philip Harding, Mick Jones and Andrew Verdeille.

The Councillors who voted against the motion were Councillors Roy Driver, Wendy Meikle, Wendy Orrell and Craig Wirright.

The Councillors who abstained were Councillors Andrew Bispham and Syd Lloyd.

RESOLVED – That that the report be noted.

11. FINAL REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL: STOCKPORT'S RESPONSE TO THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

The Chair of the Scrutiny Review Panel on Stockport's Response to the Economic Downturn (Councillor Roy Driver) submitted the final report of the Review Panel (copies of which had been circulated), prior to its consideration by the Executive.

The following comment was made/issue raised:-

- With regard to the section on information and advice, what was the desired level of service given that waiting times for specialist debt advice now averaged 42 days.

RESOLVED – (1) That the final report and recommendations of the Scrutiny Review Panel on Stockport's Response to the Economic Downturn be submitted to the Executive for approval.

(2) That a report be submitted to another meeting of the Scrutiny Review Panel in between six to nine months' time in order to monitor progress on the recommendations, should they be approved by the Executive.

12. AGENDA PLANNING

A representative of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy & Democracy) submitted a report (copies of which have been circulated) setting out the planned agenda items for the Committee's next meeting and Forward Plan items which fell within the remit of the Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm. .

G:\Secretariat\Minutes 2010\Environment Economy Scrutiny - 18 February 2010.doc

TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS**Joint report of the Corporate Directors of Communities, Regeneration & Environment and Business Services****1. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 1.1. Members have requested that a report is submitted to this Committee to investigate the legal and advertising costs associated with Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs), made on behalf of Area Committees.
- 1.2. This report addresses the request, detailing the costs of the current process and the impacts of changing to a lower-cost process. The implementation procedures and timescales for TROs were set out in detail in a report to the Environment & Economy Scrutiny Committee on 30th August 2007 .

2. INFORMATION – Current Process

- 2.1. Following a request from Stepping Hill Area Committee, a breakdown of TRO costs was produced which showed a significant variation – at times around £200 – in the legal and advertising costs for very similar schemes, particularly disabled parking bays. This report was requested to investigate cheaper options and ensure value for money is achieved.
- 2.2. The first point to note is that no legal or staff costs are taken from Ward budgets. Advertising is therefore the only cost addressed by this report.
- 2.3. Currently, Public Notices are produced by Legal Services on instruction from Traffic Services. Legal Services minimise the size of the Notices by using a small but readable font size and removing unnecessary spaces, breaks, wording or logos etc before sending them to a media handling company to forward to the Stockport Express (part of MEN Media) for publication. The current Service Level Agreement states that Notices must be issued within 28 days although in practice the process usually takes no more than a week or two.
- 2.4. In addition to providing the legal minimum advertising for TROs – 2 Notices per scheme, the first stating the Council's plans and the second confirming the implementation date – it is the policy of Stockport to also display copies of these notices on site and on the Council website. The costs of this extra work, however, are not passed on, nor are Legal Services' staff costs for any part of their involvement. Ward Committee budgets are only required to pay the direct costs of the Council's statutory obligation to advertise proposals.
- 2.5. The agreement to use one media handling company was made by the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities as part of a recruitment advertising contract through Human Resources, using economies of scale to provide cost savings. The Notice wordings are provided one week in advance of the newspaper's publication.

As specified by the agreement, the company then checks the layout and forwards to MEN Media for publication in the Stockport Express, for which they charge a nominal flat fee.

2.6. During 2009, from 1st April to 31st December, 40 TRO schemes were approved by Committees, of which 25 have been implemented during this period and the final accounts for 18 have been received indicating an average cost of £700 per scheme. Advertising took up 50% or more of this cost on virtually all schemes on average constituting nearly £500 or 70% and was 100% on some schemes where Experimental Orders were made permanent and, therefore, no further on-site work was required to add to the total cost of that scheme.

3. INFORMATION – Options to Improve Process

3.1. Initial discussions indicated that there may be opportunity to reduce costs through standard formats and bulk advertisements but also a danger that certain measures could lead to delays. To ensure value for money is provided, investigations therefore took place to determine:

- why the cost variations in the current process were occurring, and
- the benefits and implications of a bulk process, where Notices are displayed in batches, for instance monthly or quarterly.

3.2. The cost of each Notice is a fixed rate (£10.45 per column width per centimetre, depth for the Stockport Express) multiplied by 2, as double-width columns are used (the amount of text needed per Notice makes double columns more readable and cost-effective), multiplied by the column depth in centimetres. Provided a standard font and size is used, the cost is therefore entirely dependent on the content. This means that more complicated schemes, with numerous roads or measures involved, will cost more to advertise than simpler schemes.

3.3. However, an initial look at some examples of the adverts in the paper showed some variation in the size and spacing of the text. While this may be expected – items being stretched to fill gaps – negotiations with MEN media, through the media handling company, have found that the Council has been charged for the larger Notice published, not the smaller Notice submitted. MEN / Stockport Express have admitted this error and agreed to provide the appropriate refunds where this has happened.

3.4. Using an example from the newspaper issued on 17th February, a 260 word TRO Notice seemingly printed correctly to take the minimum space was 9cm deep. However, a similar 220 word advert was spaced to occupy 10cm. Reducing this to 9cm would save £20.90, more where further reductions are possible.

3.5. Legal Services are now undertaking a review of previous advertising to identify these errors and have so far identified a total overcharge of over £300 for advertisements, where this error has occurred. At least a further 16 notices are in the process of being reviewed. This is a time-consuming task and an update will be provided at the meeting on 8th April.

- 3.6. NB: Although Stockport's communications policy states that font size for print should be 12pt Arial where feasible, this is not appropriate for public notices as it would dramatically increase the cost. As we additionally provide the notices in larger font sizes on site and on our website, the minimum font size currently used in the newspaper for TROs, as well as various other public notices, is sufficient. Reducing this size any further, however, would conflict with the aims of the Council's equality and diversity policy, as text would be less readable.
- 3.7. The second main option suggested for reducing costs was to publicise proposals in bulk rather than on the current week by week basis. Looking at the same set of Notices from 17th February, the majority of the text is specific to each scheme. Some duplicated information – the opening paragraph describing the Acts applying to the order, the details on how to view the proposals and the footer showing the date and the Council Solicitor's details – *could* be partially or wholly removed. However, as a minimum this information would still need to be shown once for each set of adverts. The title of each scheme would also need to be repeated to identify each schedule and there would be various TROs that must be kept separate as different Acts apply, for instance those for speed limits, pedestrian controlled crossings, or traffic calming schemes.
- 3.8. Given the above information, the saving for each *extra* Notice in a bulk advertisement is estimated as 1cm, or £20.90. Using the figure of 40 schemes, i.e. 80 notices, the following savings could be possible over a 9 month period:
- Monthly: on average, 9 Notices per month, saving 8cm = £167.20 / month
= roughly £1,500 for the period or £2,000 per year.
 - Bi-Monthly: 18 Notices on average, saving 17cm = £355.30 / month
= roughly £1,600 for the period or £2,130 per year.
 - Quarterly: 27 Notices on average, saving 26cm = £543.40 / month
= roughly £1,630 for the period or £2,170 per year.
- Each option could therefore produce savings averaging around £54.25 per scheme and based on the 40, Borough wide, approved schemes this year, would be approximately 0.5% of the Ward's yearly allocation.
- 3.9. There are, though, a number of implications that any of these changes would have, most notably on timescales. As highlighted in the 2007 Scrutiny report, the Best Value Review of the Traffic & Safety, Car Parking and Public Rights of Way Sections in 2001/2 resulted in a streamlined TRO process averaging 4.25 months as opposed to the previous 7 months. These durations are based on no objections being received.
- 3.10. Advertising monthly rather than weekly would cause an extra delay of up to 3 weeks, lengthening the process for certain schemes to 5 months and putting extra strain on meeting the 5 month target period agreed by the Best Value Review Panel. Bi-monthly or quarterly advertising would give rise to extra delays of up to 7 or 11 weeks, resulting in a 6-7 month process and the need to review the current target period. As already stated, the current Service Level Agreement requires the adverts to be produced within 28 days so this would also need reviewing if any of the bulk advertising options were chosen.

- 3.11. The other key effect of bulk advertising would be to increase administration costs. The Notices themselves would require more work by Legal Services to lay them out correctly and to produce different versions for the website and on-site signing. This could impact on the time savings achieved by the 2007 streamlining as currently the notices can be duplicated easily, the existing case system used by the Legal Services team is tailored to producing individual notices. The current single Notice on-site would also need to contain all the proposals included in the Published Notice, making it unwieldy, unsightly and not customer-friendly.
- 3.12. Two other areas that could be investigated further to identify potential savings include the policy of providing on-site signing and reporting to Area Committees. Neither, however, would produce any savings for Ward budgets as the costs involved, including Officer's time, are not passed on. Although on-site signing is not a legal requirement, as stated it is Council policy to also keep the public informed in this way, in the interest of maintaining relationships with local residents. Regarding reporting, the process has already been streamlined. Ward Councillors are selected as spokespersons and kept informed of a scheme's progress from the investigation / consultation stages through to reporting, enabling them to support TRO reports at Area Committee meetings and avoiding unnecessary use of officer time. Additionally, all Councillors are provided with a monthly update on approved schemes through the Sections Monthly Progress Report to all Area Committees.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1. Members are requested to comment on the report and to note that:

- Officers have already instigated negotiations with MEN Media with the intention of confirming the total resulting refund amount to the Committee on 8th April.
- A standard format for TRO notices has now been agreed with all parties and that clear monitoring procedures have been put in place by Legal Services to that ensure charges are applied according to this format in future.

4.2. Members are requested to approve the following recommendation:

- That TROs continue to be advertised on a weekly basis, according to the process set out in the Best Value Review of 2001/2, in order to avoid unnecessary delays.
- That Members advise how far back the review of advertising should go, given the time and costs involved.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Traffic Regulation Orders And Traffic Schemes Implementation Procedures, Report to the Environment & Economy Scrutiny Committee, 30 August 2007

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Ian Thompson on telephone number 0161 474 4804 or alternatively email ian.thompson@stockport.gov.uk

AGENDA ITEM:

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE

DATE: 8th APRIL 2010

REPORT OF: ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (DEMOCRACY AND
GOVERNANCE)

REPORT TITLE: COMPLETED SCRUTINY REVIEWS: PROGRESS
UPDATE

- 1.1 This report sets out progress on recommendations made by Scrutiny and agreed by the Executive.
- 1.2 The following reviews have been completed which relate to this Scrutiny Committee, with recommendations outstanding:
 - **CULTURAL STRATEGIC PLANNING IN STOCKPORT** - This review aimed to support the development of a cultural strategy, to help define what 'culture' should mean for Stockport, to set principles and objectives, and clarify the ways in which principles and objectives can be delivered. (Completed: February 2006)
 - **DEVELOPING A PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICE GREEN SPACE IMPROVEMENT PLAN** - This review informed the ongoing development of a methodology for investment and other aspects of an Improvement Plan for the green spaces managed by the Parks and Recreation Service. (Completed: December 2006)
 - **THE FUTURE OF STOCKPORT MARKET** – This Review looked at the progress of the then current three year Market Action Plan and in addition gathered further information from conducting site visits and looking at scrutiny reviews carried out on markets by other Local Authorities
 - **TREE MANAGEMENT IN STOCKPORT** - A review of the policies and processes in place for tree management within the Borough. The review makes recommendations as to: formulating a comprehensive tree management Strategy for Stockport and improving communication with Councillors about major tree works. (Completed: June 2008)

- **TRAFFIC CALMING IN RESIDENTIAL STREETS** - This review builds on the findings of the previous review of the Regeneration, Housing and Development Services Scrutiny Committee ('20MPH Zones and Home Zones' (April 2003)) and provides recommendations as to the development of a Speed Management Strategy for Stockport and a traffic calming area selection criteria. (Completed: May 2007)
- 1.3 Progress reports are only included where progress with implementation of a review's recommendations is ongoing or awaited, therefore, updates do not appear for all reviews. Where significant progress has been made in implementing a review's recommendations or where the situation has changed sufficiently to make the recommendations redundant, progress with these reviews is not reported. This applies to reviews carried out prior to 2005/06.
- 1.4 Where Executive responses to reviews have been reported to Committees within the last six months, progress reports have not been requested as part of this exercise. Progress reports for these reviews will be included in a future report or sooner if the Committee has so requested. The report details at Appendix A progress made on outstanding actions agreed by the Executive and other bodies in response to recommendations made in these reports.
- 1.5 For ease of reference the following table outlines the position for each review:

Title of review	Progress report attached
CULTURAL STRATEGIC PLANNING IN STOCKPORT	Yes
DEVELOPING A PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICE GREEN SPACE IMPROVEMENT PLAN	Yes
THE FUTURE OF STOCKPORT MARKET	Yes
TREE MANAGEMENT IN STOCKPORT	Yes
TRAFFIC CALMING IN RESIDENTIAL STREETS	NO (this will be sent the June Scrutiny Committee)

- 1.6 Members are invited to consider and comment upon the progress made.

Further information

To discuss this report or for further information please contact David Tomlinson telephone number 0161 218 1634 or by e-mail on david.tomlinson@stockport.gov.uk

Appendix A

CULTURAL STRATEGIC PLANNING IN STOCKPORT				
Original Recommendation	Agreed Response	Last Reported Progress	Current Position	Future Action
<p><i>That the Executive agree the following process for cultural strategic planning in Stockport:</i></p> <p>Carry out an audit of current activity contributing to draft cultural aspirations using the audit tool referred to in the report</p>	<p>Agree. Since the completion of the review, the audit tool has been adapted to match the CPA key lines of enquiry for culture more closely. This revised framework will enable current activity to be assessed against a nationally agreed performance framework.</p>	<p>Mapping has enabled targeting of activities and the identification of potential partners to support Council activity.</p>	<p>Although mapping of cultural activity was a useful exercise, our key priority in Cultural engagement is now to target those areas and groups in Stockport who are least likely to currently participate in cultural activity.</p>	<p>The service will continue to address inequalities in cultural participation across the Borough. This will be achieved by maintaining data on participation and working with non-participating groups to find out what cultural activities they would like to be provided.</p>
<p>Carry out a self assessment using the self assessment tool referred to in the report</p>	<p>Agree. The self assessment will be carried out jointly with the audit of current activity and using the same framework</p>	<p>The areas for development identified in the TAES have been addressed. The new Culture Single Assessment tool has been used to carry out a re-assessment of the service.</p>	<p>The service continues to use the Culture and Sport Improvement Tool as a mechanism for developing our services.</p>	<p>As cultural services improvement initiatives are developed through the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships</p>

<i>Adopt the draft aspirations, objectives and action plan</i>	Agree. It will be necessary to keep these under review to make sure they are clearly aligned to revised Council priorities and any changes to the community strategy	As at last reported progress. Strategic objectives changed in line with Council/LSP priorities and the Sustainable Communities strategy.	Rather than having a separate set of strategic objectives, culture is embedded as a contribution to Council Plan priorities.	<i>See current progress.</i>
Utilise the performance measurement framework referred to in the report	Agree. It will be carried out as part of the collation of performance data as the majority of PIs are CPA culture block PIs	Performance data is now collected in relation to the National Indicator Set. This is supplemented by the Arts, Culture & Visitor Attractions balanced scorecard.	<i>As last reported progress.</i>	
Pilot a cultural celebration during 2006 with a view to holding this each year	Agree in principle, but will be difficult to implement for 2006. It is the intention to re-badge and possibly re-schedule activity into a coherent celebration of culture so this	Another successful Culturefeast took place in May 2008. A two week programme of events was also delivered to celebrate the Town Hall Centenary in July 2008.	Culturefeast 2009 embraced a wider range of cultural activity than previously, including museums, film, music and a range of partnership activity with local cultural providers.	Culturefeast 2010 is currently being planned. A range of cultural activities will also take place to coincide with the celebration of 750 years of Stockport Market.

	would be carried out within existing resources. It is suggested that the celebration is piloted in 2007.			
Explore consultation on aspirations, objectives, cultural demand and cultural partnership	Agree			
The Panel recommended that the following issues are prioritised: That culture relates to all communities in Stockport including the 'hard to reach' groups. The Panel recognised the first draft aspiration as a key aim to ensure that all residents can gain access to 'culture'.	Agree. This will be an integral part of the audit and self assessment process. The action plan will specifically target the Council's priority groups and those groups not currently being reached by cultural activity.	Cultural outreach work is prioritised amongst those communities where participation is currently lowest.	<i>Position has not changed since last reported progress.</i>	
That links are established outside the Borough in terms of gathering information about usage, and provision of services and this should be	Agree. Discussions will take place between officers in Leisure &	Productive relationships have been developed with officers involved in arts and culture at other authorities. Discussion is ongoing about joint activity	<i>Position has not changed since last reported progress.</i>	

reflected in the audit of services and in future consultations	cultural services and the AGMA Grants Unit to progress this	beyond existing projects funded by AGMA		
That there should be a focus on cultural industries and potential economic improvements	Agree. Discussions will take place between officers in Leisure and Cultural Services and Economic Development & Tourism to progress this.	Liaison continues with the Creative Industries Development Service and Economic Development.	Following the disbandment of the Creative Industries Development Service, we are working with Economic Development to consider how creative industries can best be supported in Stockport.	

DEVELOPING A PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICE GREEN SPACE IMPROVEMENT PLAN				
Original Recommendation	Agreed Response	Last Reported Progress	Current Position	Future Action
1) The Committee recognises current achievements and supports the preparation of an Improvement Plan for the purpose of strategic investment in parks and green spaces. The plans should aim to start on 1st June 2007 and be phased over the following five years	The Improvement Plan will be phased over five years and commence January 2008.	Improvement Plan was put into place in April 2008. The investment undertaken during 2007 / 08 led to an increase of Green Flag accreditations from 8 to 11.	The number of unique sites that have won a Green Flag Award in Stockport increased to 16	Three new applications will be made in 2010. If successful the total number of sites reaching Green Flag Standard will be 19
2) The Committee recommends that the Improvement Plan should be founded on good quality information on the unit cost of managing green space, such as costs allocated to activities or areas of green space, in order that the delivery of value for money through its implementation can be measured and monitored.	Agree. The draft Improvement Plan will be developed in parallel with the implementation of the Authority Public Protection software system that will permit comparison, measurement and monitoring of unit costs.	The same typologies have been used in the development of both the Investment Plan and the database for APP. The appropriate staff are currently receiving training to use the APP software.	Training in APP ongoing	

<p>3) The Committee supports the focussed improvement activity planned by the Parks and Recreation Service but recommends that the Executive consider commissioning a comprehensive 'Green Space Strategy'. The Strategy would encompass all green space available to the residents of Stockport whether publicly or privately owned, including natural green spaces such as woodlands and river valleys, and implementing a common approach to investment in Stockport's green space.</p>	<p>Agree in principle. This would be a significant undertaking subject to broad stakeholder involvement and resourcing. Following implementation of the Parks Improvement Plan this will be given further consideration.</p>	<p>No progress to date.</p> <p>A restructured parks service may be in a better position to pursue this large undertaking</p>	<p>No progress</p>	<p>It is likely that a re-written Parks Improvement Plan will include elements that one would expect to see in a wider reaching Green Space Strategy</p>
<p>4) The Improvement Plan should set a clear and strong direction for the Parks and Recreation Service and, in doing so, it should:</p> <p>a) make clear how improvements in parks and green spaces draw upon</p>	<p><i>Agree. The draft Improvement Plan will:</i></p> <p>a) will be set within national,</p>	<p>a) Relevant national, regional, local strategic initiatives and council priorities have been identified and utilised.</p> <p>b) Qualitative and access assessments based on Green Flag award criteria have been undertaken and will be</p>	<p>a) As before</p> <p>b) The Parks service is currently re-fining the method used to determine the number of people who have access to Green Flag Standard parks. The</p>	<p>a) reviewed and adapted as appropriate</p> <p>b) to revise the targets for 'access to Green Flag Standard Parks' in light of the use of more accurate measuring techniques</p>

<p>other policies and initiatives for improving and investing in parks and green spaces;</p> <p>b) set local quality and access standards and outline specific actions that will be taken to target variances in green space provision;</p> <p>c) define the typology used to classify green spaces and the criteria used in this process whilst clearly describing which green spaces are incorporated, taking account of natural areas such as woodlands and river valleys. It should be clear how typology will relate to resource allocation;</p> <p>d) set out a framework for allocating resources to green spaces across the borough where priorities for action are influenced by need. The need should be determined following quality assessments, consideration of relevant neighbourhood statistics and issues specific</p>	<p>regional and local strategic initiatives and reflect council priorities</p> <p>b) set clear standards and targets with respect to quality and access standards. The Improvement Plan will aim to address variances in green space provision within the available resources.</p> <p>c) The draft Improvement Plan will produce a clear typology of green space and will include natural areas such as river valleys and woodlands and demonstrate how</p>	<p>reviewed annually. The minimum goal would be for all people living in Stockport to have access to a green flag standard park within a ten minute / 1 kilometre walk. The preferred goal, to which the parks service is working towards, is to have all of the major and neighbourhood sites brought to and maintained at that standard.</p> <p>c) Green spaces have been categorised into typologies with a clear definition for each typology. Availability of resources and the desire to address inequalities in provision dictate that only those major and neighbourhood sites will currently be considered within the Improvement Plan.</p> <p>d) Green spaces are assessed using a qualitative system. A range of demographic and socio-economic data have been identified and used to produce an initial ranking of parks for improvement planning.</p>	<p>revision will make use of newly available software that is highly accurate in determining 'true' access i.e. it will take into account natural barriers such as motorways, rivers etc.</p> <p>c) ongoing</p> <p>d) as before</p>	<p>c) no change</p> <p>d) no change</p>
---	---	--	---	---

<p>to particular sites.</p>	<p>resources will be allocated.</p> <p>d) The draft Improvement Plan will utilise a range of demographic and socio-economic data and qualitative assessments to demonstrate how resources will be allocated to address need and variances in greenspace provision.</p>			
<p>5) The Committee recommends that the borough-wide Improvement Plan is implemented through detailed, focused development plans for individual typologies and uses of green space in addition to area-based improvement plans.</p>	<p><i>Agree. The draft Improvement Plan will demonstrate development ambitions for each typology and describe improvement</i></p>	<p>Ranking of greenspace for improvement planning at Area Committee level is complete.</p>	<p>The desire to increase the number of people with access to Green Flag Standard Parks is a borough-wide measurement but this can still be reported on an area committee basis. However many sites serve populations that are in multiple area committees</p>	<p>To consider an improved and more useful method to report on improvement target at Area Committee level.</p>

	<i>plans at area committee level.</i>			
6) The Committee recommends that the Parks and Recreation Service should consult on plans both with residents and Area Committees, in terms of the area-based development plans, and with key stakeholders and the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee, in terms of the consolidated improvement plan and themed development plans.	Agree. The Parks and Recreation Service will consult with residents, Area Committees and other key stakeholders with regard to proposals in the Parks Improvement Plan.	The Greenspace Forum has been consulted. An overview of the improvement plan has been included in the most recent Parks, Sport and Recreation annual reports.	Annual Reports were noted and accepted	It is the Parks Services intention to include updates within each service level annual report that is submitted to area committee
7) This Committee recommends that the review of the existing commuted sum policy during the Local Development Framework process should consider whether the policy could be extended to allow commuted sums to be used not only for recreational open space but for open space provision in general.	Agree. The Parks and Recreation Service will consult and review options for broader use and allocation of Commuted Sums.	Proposals for more flexible use of Commuted Sums are being discussed as part of the LDF review.	No change	On going

<p>8) The Committee recommends that involvement of a broader spectrum of the community in the improvement of local green spaces should be sought through;</p> <p>a) a Volunteer Action Week to encourage, through a variety of initiatives, the direct involvement of local people to benefit green spaces through a limited period of promotion and activity.</p> <p>b) making links with schools, parts of the Council dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime and other partners to encourage the involvement of people most likely to benefit from the experience of activities contributing to improving green spaces. For example, young people, offenders and people experiencing mental health problems.</p>	<p>Agree</p> <p>A pilot Volunteer Action Week will be piloted in Spring 2008 and, if successful, will be repeated on an annual basis.</p> <p>The Parks & Recreation Service will continue with a programme of working with schools and other parties to address issues relating to anti social behaviour and to encourage involvement from all sections of the community.</p>	<p>Under the banner of the Stockport Community Pride initiative the Parks Service has continued to work towards involving a broader spectrum of the community in the development of green spaces.</p> <p>The Service continues to work with schools across the borough.</p>	<p>Due in a large part to the PlayBuilder scheme the Parks Development Team have moved from working almost entirely with Friends Groups towards consultation processes that involve a broader range of stakeholders</p> <p>Schools and youth groups have been specifically targeted as part of the Playbuilder scheme</p>	<p>Year two of the Playbuilder Scheme commences in April 2010 therefore it is expected that the team will continue to work with a broad range of people from local communities</p> <p>The specific targeting of young people will continue, this is likely to be increasingly undertaken in partnership with the Play Development Team</p>
---	---	---	---	--

THE FUTURE OF STOCKPORT MARKET			
Original Recommendation	Agreed Response	Current Position	Future Action
The Committee recognises current achievements and supports the redevelopment of the current Market Action Plan in the light of this review and changing circumstances. This should result in a renewed vision for Stockport Market, a reinvigorated and more focussed plan with a clear timescale for improvements.	Agreed. The Market Action Plan will be redeveloped in the light of the Scrutiny Review and national initiatives and changing local circumstances.	A new market improvement plan has been developed focusing on four areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving partnership working with traders • Attracting new traders, particularly niche and independent operators • Improving footfall in Market Place with events and community initiatives • Reviewing operations in the market with a view to reducing costs 	The plan will continue to develop in response to the initiatives new national working party on retail markets. The plan will aim to use the market as a vehicle for promoting regeneration, community cohesion, healthy eating, sustainability and cultural participation.
The Committee recommends that the current promotional 'satellite market' on Warren Street be continued and extended. There is potential space for more stalls in this area that is currently not being utilised.	Agreed. This recommendation will be reported to Tame Valley Area Committee, who are responsible for granting permission for the use of this space, in July 2008. Feedback will be included with wider consultation on trading in this area.	In July 2009, Central Stockport Area Committee decided that it would no longer permit market trading on Warren Street. The market is now consolidated in the Market Place.	Given the strength of feeling of traders and customers against the Warren St satellite market, there is no current intention to pursue planning permission for market trading in this area.
The Committee supports the exploration into the increased use of the Underbanks area by market stalls during large	Agreed. Options for obtaining the relevant permissions will be pursued with a view to enabling the expansion of the markets	The position for Warren St outlined above also applies to the Underbanks area.	It is possible that stalls will be located in these areas for one off Town Centre events, following appropriate consultation and

events held in the town centre			Committee approval.
The Committee supports the review of resources available for the promotion and advertising of the Market. With a view to maximising impact over a sustained period.	Agreed. Options for realigning resources for the short term will be investigated. Opportunities for securing budget growth will be pursued at appropriate occasions.	Since the incorporation of the Market in a service area with the other visitor attractions, it has been possible to significantly increase publicity and promotion of the market, often in combination with events or other attractions.	Opportunities will continue to be sought to promote the market more effectively with resources available.
The Committee recommends that a coherent and coordinated approach is taken with regard to the organisation and promotion of events throughout Stockport Borough.	Agreed. A process for promoting and co-ordinating events throughout Stockport is now in place.	A comprehensive programme of events is now taking place in the Market. This is part of a wider programme of events organised by the Council and its partners. Events held during 2009, include Easterfeast, Standing Together (WW2 themed event) and a Victorian Christmas extravaganza.	Planning is already underway for a major programme of events to celebrate the 750 th anniversary of Stockport Market in summer/autumn of 2010.
The Committee recommends that further explorations are undertaken with regard to signage of the Market area itself as well as signage throughout the town centre directing shoppers and visitors to the market area.	Agreed. These issues will be explored with Transportation and Planning and other relevant parts of the Council.	Designs have been agreed, following consultation with traders, for entrance features at key access points to the Market Place.	It is anticipated that the entrance features will be installed in Spring 2010. Signage options will continue to be reviewed in the light of wider Council signage strategies and highways regulations.
This Committee recommends that the use of Churchgate be evaluated to ensure that it is utilised to the best advantage	Agreed. This issue is currently being pursued with Transportation and Planning.	Churchgate is no longer required as part of the Market and now provides access for the Stockport Shuttle.	

and can be flexible to meet changing future needs of the Market.			
This Committee supports the continuation of the Entrepreneurship scheme at Stockport Market.	Agreed. The scheme will continue to be promoted and reviewed in the light of feedback from participants.	The Entrepreneurship scheme has been completely reviewed with a view to attracting and retaining a greater diversity of offer on the Market.	The scheme will be relaunched in February 2010 and continually evaluated to ensure that it is attracting new traders.
The Committee recommends that their findings regarding car parking provision within the town centre are taken into consideration	Agreed. These will be discussed with Transportation and Planning.	Discussions continue regarding car parking provision, acknowledging constraints which prevent significantly changing parking arrangements.	

TREE MANAGEMENT IN STOCKPORT			
Original Recommendation	Agreed Response	Current Position	Future Action
<p><i>That the Executive should formulate a comprehensive Stockport tree management strategy to include as a minimum:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Explicit links to Council priorities</i> - <i>Aims and objectives in relation to both Council and privately owned trees</i> - <i>Timetable for review</i> 	<p>Agreed. A tree management strategy will be formulated in two stages led by the Parks and Recreation Service.</p> <p>The formulation of a tree management strategy encompassing all Stockport's trees is a significant task. Therefore, the first stage will be to scope the strategy with other Council services and partners.</p> <p>Once this exercise is complete the Parks and Recreation Service will take a lead on writing the long term strategy in consultation with other services and partners.</p>	<p>Scoping report on the tree and woodland strategy identifying all relevant bodies for consultation and reasons for the strategy has been completed.</p> <p>Council tree and woodland strategy is currently at the early stages of production and it is expected to have an initial draft for consultation by March/April 2010.</p>	<p>Following consultation period and any alterations due to comments or recommendations final draft sent for approval.</p>
<p><i>That the Executive review the need for a separate woodland landscape strategy in the context of a Stockport tree management strategy (see recommendation 1 above) and, should a need be</i></p>	<p>Agreed. The requirement, or otherwise, for a separate woodland landscape strategy will be reviewed as part of the tree management strategy scoping exercise (see recommendation 1)</p>	<p>Woodland strategy and management plans will be incorporated within the Tree and Woodland strategy and all Council owned Woodlands will be investigated and where ownership is clear a management plan drawn up. Furthermore SLA will be investigated and acquired to progress woodlands not within CRE Directorate.</p>	<p>As above.</p>

<p><i>identified from that survey to then review and update the woodland landscape strategy with a timetable for future review of the strategy.</i></p>			
<p><i>That the Executive Portfolio holders for Leisure and Transportation ensure that the Environment and Economy Directorate routinely informs councillors about major tree works via e-mail so that they are able to give informed responses to queries from members of the public.</i></p>	<p>Agreed. Routine communication with Councillors is in place.</p>	<p>Current position is the same as all local Councillors are informed of current routine maintenance in the areas and any major works outside of routine works are also communicated to Councillors.</p>	<p>Continue.</p>
<p>That the Executive Portfolio holders for Leisure and Transportation are asked to investigate the possibility of routing email replies from arboriculture officers via the Contact Centre or another appropriate email address</p>	<p>Agreed. Protocol in place with the Contact Centre to route email replies via that route.</p>	<p>Continue with agreement.</p>	<p>Continue.</p>

<p>That the Executive put in place a policy covering safety inspections of Council owned trees that applies across all such trees regardless of the Directorate/Service/other body with responsibility for those trees</p>	<p>Agreed. The scoping exercise for the tree management strategy will consider issues relating to safety inspections with a view to incorporating them into that strategy (see recommendation 1).</p>	<p>Will be detailed within the Tree and Woodland strategy.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>
--	---	--	-----------------

Governance and Accountability of Strategic Partnerships: Enhancing the role of Scrutiny Committees

Report of Assistant Chief Executive, Strategy and Democracy

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To update Scrutiny Committees on a review of existing governance arrangements and the relationship between the Stockport Partnership with associated thematic boards, and Scrutiny Committees.

To propose enhanced reporting arrangements between these partnerships and the associated Scrutiny Committees.

2. IDENTIFIED ISSUES

Stockport has well established and effective partnerships and Scrutiny Committees. Relationships exist between these groups that have evolved in the past two years. There is however no consistent approach across each thematic board and each Scrutiny Committee regarding how information, plans and progress on issues are shared and Councillors kept informed.

Members of Scrutiny Committees have raised concerns on a number of occasions about the access elected members, and the public, have to agendas, reports and minutes of the Partnership Board and thematic partnership boards.

Democratic accountability of partnerships is increasingly important as the role of partnerships has been enhanced through the *Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007*. In addition we need to take account of the introduction of the Duty to Involve representatives of local people.¹

More recently the Audit Commission published a best practice guide to partnership working which challenged authorities to assess how well elected members on scrutiny challenge the Local Strategic Partnership arrangements and its partners. Completion of the assessment locally identified a need for Stockport to develop further scrutiny of partnerships.

3. CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS

Scrutiny Committees currently receive resumes of meetings of the Stockport Partnership Board and the thematic partnerships. These provide information on matters considered by the partnership and officer contact details. They allow the Committees to request reports or obtain more information on items direct from officers as appropriate.

Whilst the resumes are seen to be useful, elected members consider that without access to the agenda and reports for the meetings they do not have sufficient

¹ Creating Strong, Safe, and Prosperous Communities Statutory Guidance July 2008

² Working Better Together, <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nationalstudies/localgov/workingbettertogether/Pages/workingbettertogether.aspx>

information to enable them to gain any meaningful insight into the issues being considered and dealt with by the Stockport Partnership, any of the thematic partnership boards or indeed where they could add value.

The engagement of Scrutiny Committees with each thematic partnership also varies across each. For example a formal protocol exists setting out the relationship between the Safer Stockport Partnership and the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee, and arrangements are in place for representatives of that partnership board to attend Scrutiny Committee meetings twice yearly. There is however no such formal arrangement in place with regard to any other thematic partnership. This results in planned formal reporting of one thematic board to the relevant Scrutiny Committee but scrutiny of other boards takes place on a more adhoc basis.

It is also noted that as not all thematic boards' agendas and associated papers are circulated via publicly accessible web pages it is difficult for elected members to assess which areas they would suggest for further scrutiny review.

3.1 PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS

To provide for enhanced transparency, accountability through Scrutiny, and stronger partnership governance arrangements, the following arrangements were agreed by the Stockport Partnership Board at the meeting of 2nd February. These will introduce a level of consistency into the availability of information and the engagement between Scrutiny Committees, the Stockport Partnership Board and thematic partnerships.

- Agendas and reports (except those containing exempt information according to an agreed criterion) of the Stockport Partnership Board and thematic partnerships will be made available through the electronic @gendas service. This means all papers will be available for public and all elected member viewing.
- Resumes will continue to be submitted to Scrutiny Committees to provide regular feedback on the work of the Board and thematic partnerships
- Arrangements will be made for representatives of the Partnership Board and thematic partnership boards to attend the relevant Scrutiny Committee on a planned basis to present at the very least an annual report (generally once a year). This would enable Scrutiny Committees to engage with and examine the work of each partnerships. Additional attendance and information could be requested by a Scrutiny Committee on a relevant area of focus of a thematic partnership boards' work should the need arise but should be a considered and agreed request of the Committee. (and not of an individual elected member)

Full terms of reporting are included at appendix 1, with a proposed schedule of reporting at appendix 2.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Scrutiny Committees are asked to:

- Endorse the Scrutiny arrangements proposed in section 3.1 and the supporting appendices, subject to any comments or considerations the committee may have.

APPENDIX 1

Strategic Partnership Reporting to Scrutiny Committees Terms of Reporting

Purpose of Reports

To enhance the democratic accountability of, and public involvement in, partnership working in Stockport.

Reports will provide

A summary of partnership performance in the previous 12 months including:

PI data
Summary actions/ initiatives
Examples of real outcomes (Case Studies)

A summary of and rationale for partnership priorities for the next 12 months
Summaries of planned actions

Role of Committee Members

To comment on and challenge areas of under performance
To comment on and challenge priorities and planned actions
Identify issues for more detailed scrutiny

Accountability

Comments of the committee will be reported back to the partnership, and responses sought as appropriate
More detailed reports on issues identified by the Committee will be programmed into the annual work programme

Exceptions and Decisions

This regular reporting should not replace reports on specific decisions which would normally go before the committee
Strategic Plans identified as part of the Partnership's Policy Framework will be brought to the committee prior to endorsement by the Partnership Board for comment

Reporting Frequency

Annually, to commence in municipal year 2010/11 with reports covering 2009/10

Reporting Format

A standard report template will be used to ensure the agreed content is included in a clear and concise format
Reporting will be the responsibility of the lead council officer. Scrutiny committees should work with lead officers to identify and invite relevant partners to be involved in the process

APPENDIX 2

Provisional Schedule of Reporting

Dates >>	2010									2011					
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun
By Scrutiny Committee															
Adults and Communities				SSP		SCP					SSP		AESEP		
Health						HWBP									
Children									CT						
Economy and Environment											EP		EA		
CRMG									SPB						

Rationale for timings

To align with 6 monthly reporting to GONW, renegotiation of LAA and CAA process
 Dates already agreed and in operation
 flexible
 flexible
 Proposed to align with publication of educational attainment results
 flexible
 flexible but proposed to align with AESEP to allow joint reporting to SPB
 flexible but proposed to align with EA to allow joint reporting to SPB

Glossary

SPB – Stockport Partnership Board
 SCP – Stronger Communities Partnership
 CT – Children Trust
 EA – Economic Alliance Partnership

SSP – Safer Stockport Partnership
 HWBP – Health and Wellbeing Partnership
 EP – Environment partnership
 AESEP – Adult Education, Skills & Employment

AGENDA ITEM NO.

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 8th APRIL 2010

REPORT OF: ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (STRATEGY, PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE)

REPORT TITLE: AGENDA PLANNING

1) PLANNED AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

(Committee Members are asked to note that agenda items are indicative at this stage and will be subject to change and added to following this meeting)

3rd June 2010

Item	Type/Purpose
4 th Quarter Financial Monitoring Report	Monitoring Report
4 th Quarter Corporate Performance Report	Monitoring Report
Traffic Calming In Residential Streets Scrutiny Review Progress Report	Monitoring Report
Highway Drainage Cleansing Report Update	Monitoring Report (Request)

RELEVANT ENTRIES IN APRIL 2010 FORWARD PLAN

Decision Reference	Subject Area for Decision	Expected Date of Decision	Decision Maker
RGN 172	Redevelopment of Knightsbridge	April - July 2010	Executive
RGN 174	Review of Regeneration led Compulsory Purchase Orders	April 2010	Executive
RGN 175	Statement of Community Involvement – Draft Review	April 2010	Executive recommendation to the Council Meeting
RGN 176	Heritage Lottery Fund – Future Priority Bids	April 2010	Executive
RGN 177	Stockport Local Development Framework Core Strategy	April – July 2010	Executive recommendation to the Council Meeting
RGN/FIN/CF/C 1	Executive's response to the report of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee following its review of Stockport's response to the Economic Downturn	May / June 2010	Executive
TR 37	Contract Parking Permits	April 2010	Executive
TR 38	Walking Strategy and Cycling Strategy	April/May 2010	Executive