

**A STOCKPORT ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP****Report of the Executive Councillor (Environment), Stockport Council****1.0 Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to propose the establishment of a Stockport Environment Partnership as a new thematic partnership within the Stockport Partnership.

**2.0 Background**

2.1 Improving the quality of Stockport's environment is one the three cross-cutting outcomes in Stockport's new draft Local Area Agreement.

2.3 One of Stockport Council's priorities (2007-10) is to be a 'Leading Green Borough' by:

- Limiting Stockport's impact on the environment.
- Reducing the environmental impact of traffic
- Protecting greenspace

2.4 More recently, at the Greater Manchester level, the Stockport Council Leader has taken the political lead for the AGMA Environment Commission, one of the proposed new Strategic Commissions.

2.5 The Council has established its own internal group to provide strategic leadership on environmental and cleanliness issues in support of the Council's headline priorities for 2007-10 and to ensure co-operation from across all the Directorates. An Environment Board has helped to develop programmes around green/clean issues, including corporate waste reduction and climate change. However, the environment agenda is not one that can be delivered by a local authority alone.

2.6 The Stockport Partnership is currently comprised of a Partnership Board, Partnership Forum, Public Services Commissioners' Co-ordinating Board and a number of thematic partnerships. Appendix 1 illustrates the existing arrangements for the Stockport Partnership.

2.7 The Stockport Partnership is responsible for agreeing the borough's Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement. It will also have some input into the new Comprehensive Area Assessment, which will assess the local authority and its work with partners.

**3.0 The New Performance Framework for Local Government – Sustainable Environment**

3.1 There are a number of indicators in the new National Indicator Set (NIS) that relate to environmental issues. Many, if not all, require the commitment of partners to make progress.

Table 1: Sustainable Environment - National Indicators

NI 185	CO2 reduction from local authority operations
<b>NI 186</b>	<b>Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the LA area</b>
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 189	Flood and coastal erosion risk management
NI 190	Achievement in meeting standards for the control system for animal health
NI 191	Residual household waste per head
<b>NI 192</b>	<b>Household waste recycled and composted</b>
NI 193	Municipal waste landfilled
NI 194	Level of air quality -reduction in NO x and primary PM10 emissions through local authority's estate and operations
<b>NI 195</b>	<b>Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly posting)</b>
<b>NI 196</b>	<b>Improved street and environmental cleanliness – fly tipping</b>
NI 197	Improved local biodiversity – active management of local sites
NI 198	Children travelling to school – mode of travel usually used

NIs in bold in table 1 are proposed designated targets in the new Local Area Agreement.

#### **4.0 An Environment Partnership**

4.1 Many localities have established Environment Partnerships within their Local Strategic Partnerships to take forward their local environmental ambitions. The nature of these partnerships vary from having responsibility for delivering Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) activity to broader consultative networks of local voluntary and community organisations.

4.2 At present there is no 'home' for environment issues within the Partnership. It is worth noting that this issue has been identified by the Audit Commission in a previous Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) review.

4.2 In Stockport, whilst the make up of the thematic partnerships vary, there are some consistent characteristics:

##### Role

- To deliver priorities across the borough's agreed thematic priorities.
- To deliver agreed LAA outcomes.
- To support partnership working on cross-cutting issues.
- Accountable to the Stockport Partnership.

##### Membership

Varies between partnerships, but all should have:

- A chair (and appropriate arrangements for delegated decision-making)
- An Executive Councillor playing a significant role
- Participation of key partners/stakeholders

- 4.3 It is worth highlighting that whether or not an Environment Partnership is established, there is likely to be a challenge from Comprehensive Area Assessment, either:
- (if a partnership is not established) 'if environment is a priority why isn't this reflected in the form and function of the LSP?' Or,
  - (if a partnership is established) 'how can its added value and effectiveness be demonstrated?'

## **5.0 Outline Proposal for a Stockport Environment Partnership**

- 5.1 The following outlines a proposed scope, role and membership for an environment partnership as a new thematic partnership.

### **Role**

- 5.2 It is proposed that the Partnership would be responsible for leading on partnership efforts to support the 'green' agenda in Stockport, guided by the Council priorities, partner's priorities and the national perspective (as per 4.1 above for example) and contributing this perspective to the Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement.

### **Scope**

- 5.3 Given the breadth of the 'green agenda', one of the first tasks of the Partnership would be to establish its priorities, in order to provide a focus e.g. initial priorities could be around climate change, waste and cleanliness from the LAA.
- 5.4 It is proposed that planning and transport per se are not included within the scope of the environment partnership, although there may be some areas of mutual interest.

### **Membership**

- 5.5 Partner organisations are key to the success of the Environment Partnership:
- i) Local partners within the Stockport Partnership e.g. Stockport Council, Stockport NHS PCT, Stockport NHS Foundation Trust, GM Police, GM Fire and Rescue Service, Chamber of Commerce, Stockport Community and Voluntary Services, Registered Social Landlords.
  - ii) Organisations with a specific environmental brief to play an advisory role e.g. Environment Agency, ENCAMS, Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Enworks (Groundwork), Carbon Trust, Energy Saving Trust, GO-NW (Defra).
- 5.6 Appropriate arrangements for performance management, financial management and governance would be established for the new Partnership, consistent with the adopted Partnership Constitution.

## **6.0 Proposed Next Steps**

- 6.1 Subject to comments from the Partnership Board, the proposed next step is to convene an initial meeting with stakeholders in July (date to be confirmed) to explore the scope, role and membership of an Environment Partnership within the Stockport Partnership in more detail prior to establishing the formal Partnership arrangements.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

- 7.1 Subject to comments, the Partnership Board is asked to support the establishment of a Stockport Environment Partnership.
- 7.2 Board Members are invited to nominate attendees for the proposed stakeholder session in July.

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Appendix 1: The Stockport Partnership

