



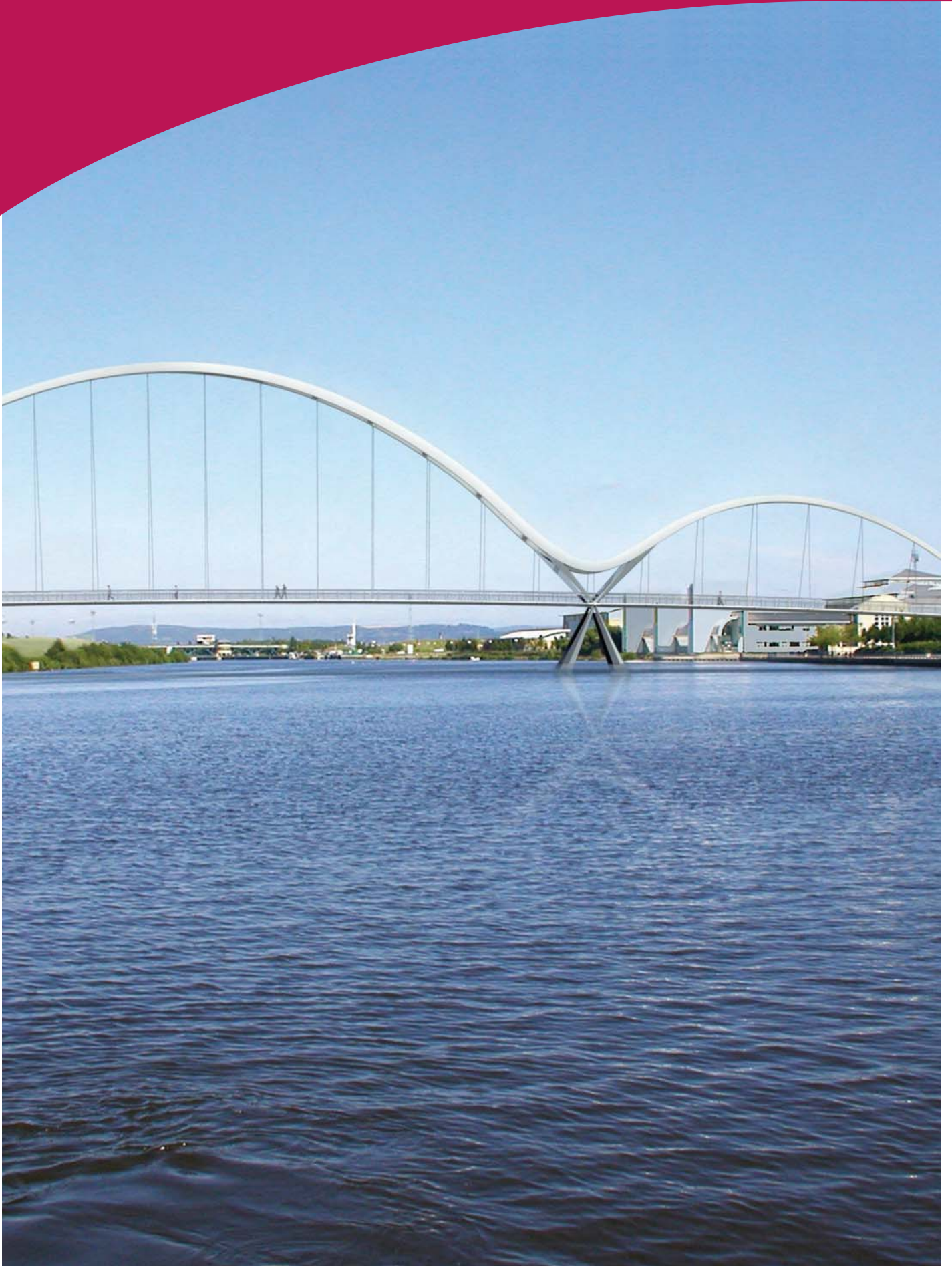
Shaping Our future

Narrowing the Gap

How Stockton-on-Tees Borough
has performed against key
Quality of Life indicators

stockton
renaissance

The Social & Economic Regeneration of Stockton-on-Tees, Billingham, Thornaby and Yarm





Introduction

The long-term vision of Stockton Renaissance to promote achievement and tackle disadvantage has underpinned successive Community Strategies. In 2004, the Community Strategy identified 36 indicators for measuring quality of life and progress against this vision. This report shows our performance against these and other indicators and is a summary version of a larger, more detailed document.

A borough of wide contrasts, Stockton-on-Tees is a mixture of busy town centres, urban residential areas and picturesque villages. 204 sq km in size, its 189,200 residents (Office for National Statistics mid-2006 estimate) live in 77,600 households (Tees Valley JSU 2007 estimate). There is a unique social and economic mix, with areas of disadvantage situated alongside areas of affluence.

Stockton-on-Tees in 2008 is a very different place to that of a decade ago. Then, it was characterised by low aspiration, significant levels of deprivation and high unemployment. Through targeted interventions and high quality service delivery, the council and its voluntary, public and private sector partners have improved performance in many areas and the gap between the most and least deprived areas of the borough has narrowed.

Throughout this report we refer to a number of different areas across the borough. These areas are different depending on the data source used. For example, the areas referred to in relation to satisfaction measures refer to our biennial IPSOS MORI Residents Survey data and are based on the 1997 wards:

- **Billingham:** Charltons, Grange, Marsh House, St. Aidan's, Northfield, St. Cuthbert's
- **North Stockton:** Whitton, Wolviston, Glebe, Norton
- **Central Stockton:** Portrack/Tilery, Parkfield, Newtown, Blue Hall, Roseworth, Mile House, Hardwick
- **West Stockton:** Bishopsgarth, Hartburn, Elm Tree, Fairfield, Grangefield
- **Thornaby:** Stainsby, Victoria, Village, Mandale
- **South Stockton:** Preston, Egglecliffe, Yarm, Ingleby Barwick

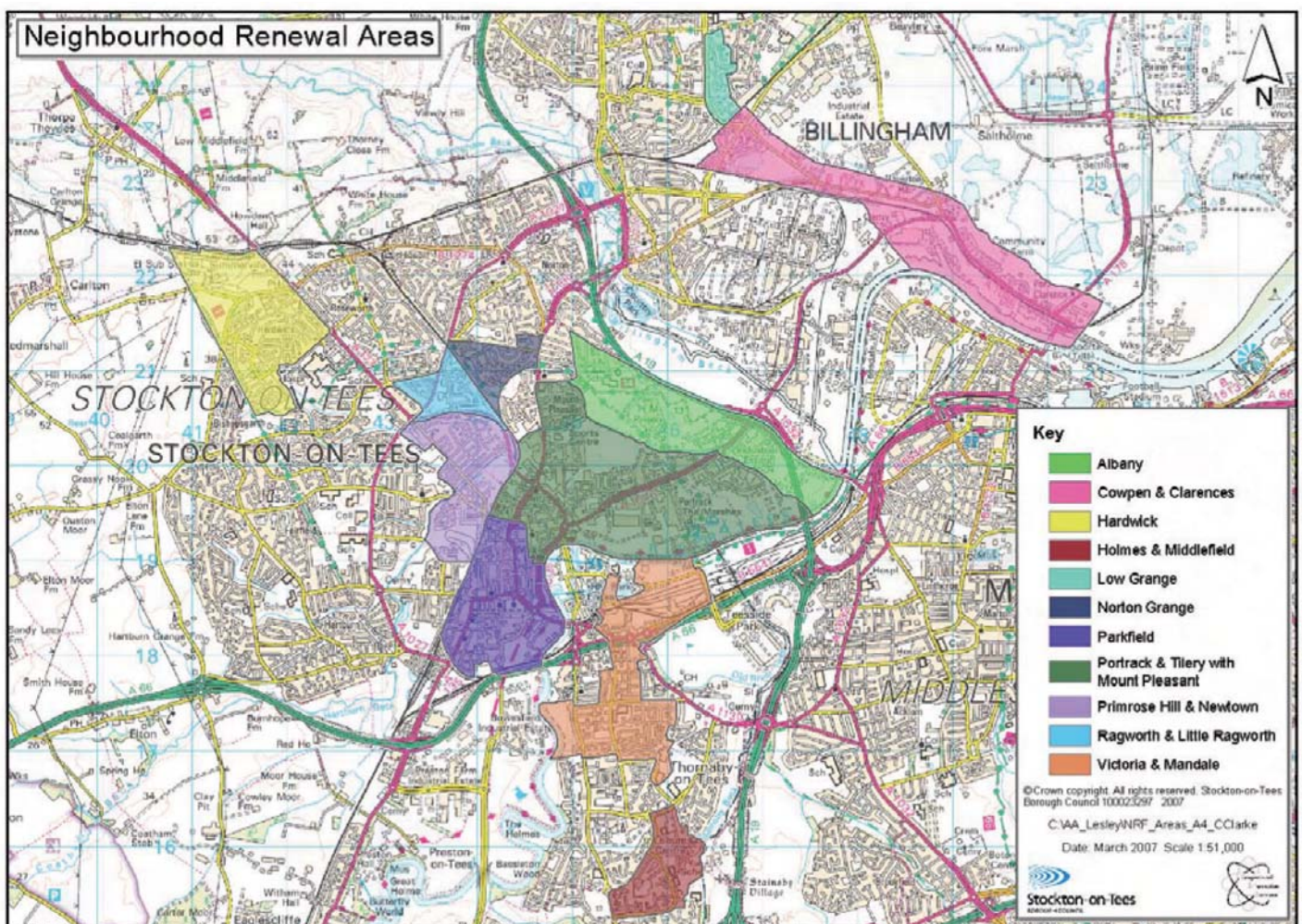


Keeping these areas means that we have been able to confidently track improvement for over a decade.

Also used for comparisons are some of the most disadvantaged areas in the borough, those in receipt of the 2006/08 phase of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding. These are shown in the diagram below. It is important to consider these areas as the Council and its partners have a commitment to improving the quality of life of residents in the most disadvantaged communities in our borough.

Reference will also be made to Renaissance Area Boards, which have an important role within the Stockton Renaissance Partnership.

Community Partnerships and Residents Associations feed into the Area Partnership Boards, which underpin the Stockton Renaissance process. These Boards bring together representatives from the voluntary and community sector, local business, local agencies and residents associations to give local people an opportunity to influence services provided in their area.





There are four Area Partnership Boards within Stockton Renaissance:

- **Central Area Partnership Board** covering the areas of Hardwick, Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree, Fairfield, Hartburn, Grangefield, Parkfield and Oxbridge, Stockton Town Centre, Norton and surrounding villages.
- **Eastern Area Partnership Board** covering the areas of Thornaby, Ingleby Barwick, Hilton, Maltby and surrounding villages.
- **Northern Area Partnership Board** covering the areas of Billingham, Wynyard, Wolviston and outlying areas.
- **Western Area Partnership Board** covering the areas of Yarm, Eaglescliffe, Kirklevington, Long Newtown, Elton and surrounding villages.

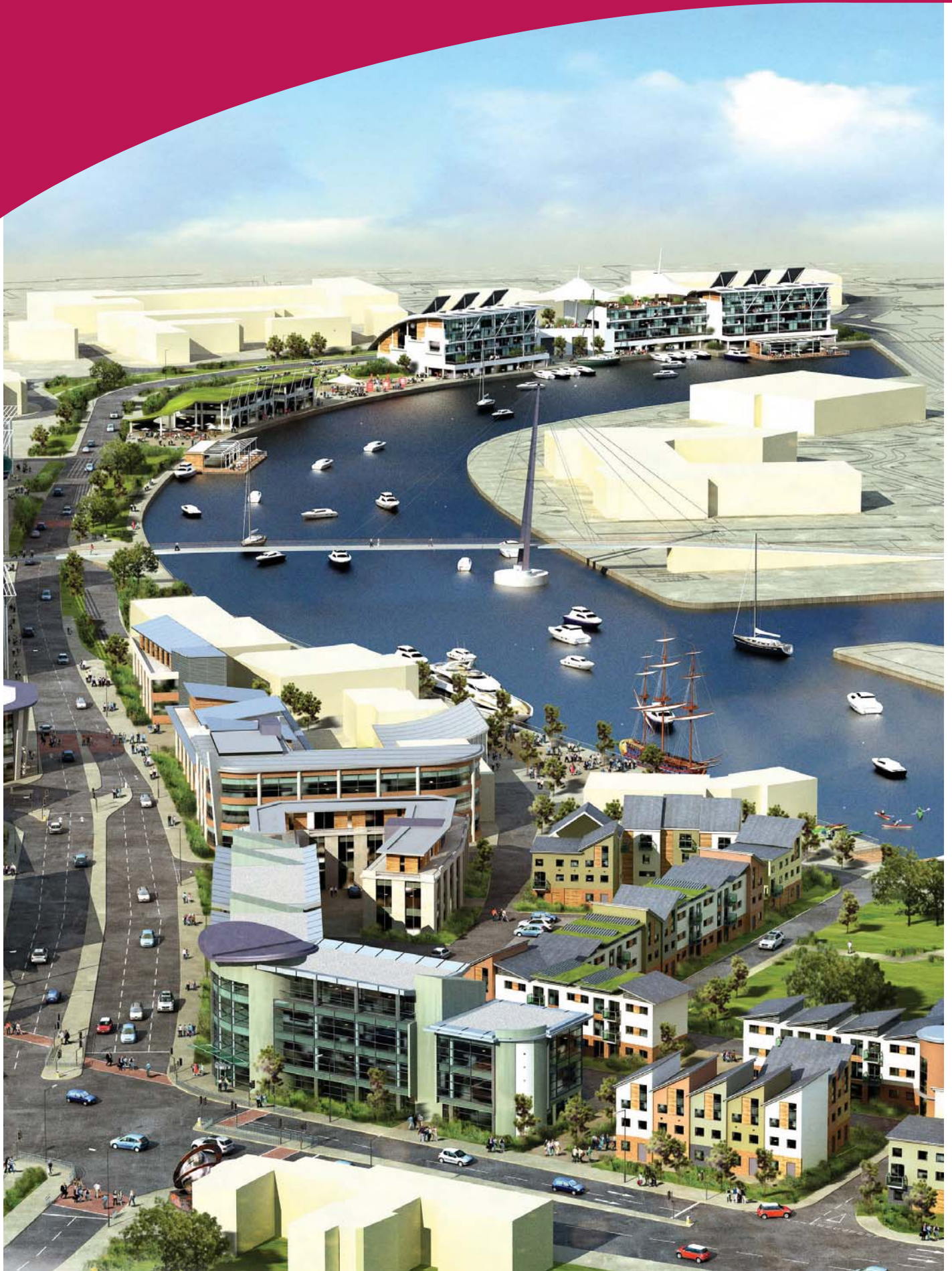


At the beginning of each of the following sections of this document, we show our judgements about how we have performed against each indicator. These are colour-coded as follows:

Red: performance has worsened and/or the gap has widened.

Amber: new indicator, or performance has neither improved nor declined and/or the gap has stayed the same.

Green: performance has improved and/or the gap narrowed.





Overarching Indicators

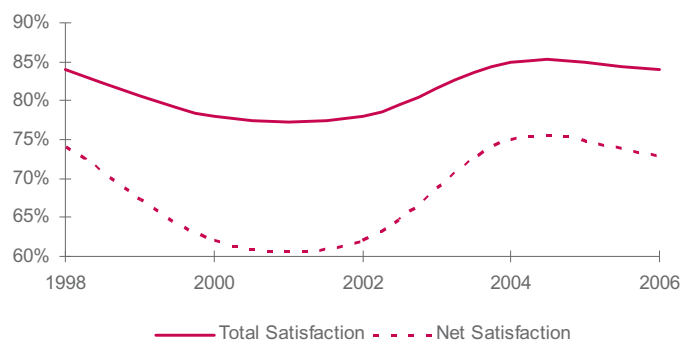
(as identified by the 2004 Community Strategy)

I Satisfaction with the local area as a Place to Live –

Overall satisfaction has remained consistently high but the Gap between the most and least satisfied has widened.

Although the gap between the least satisfied residents and those most satisfied has increased from 37% in 1998 to 41% in 2006, total satisfaction has remained constant at 84% and net satisfaction has only fallen from 74% to 73%. In 1998, when the first IPSOS MORI Residents Survey was commissioned, resident low aspiration typified the area. Renaissance has carried out a programme of physical regeneration to bring widespread improvements across the borough and this can be seen as both raising resident satisfaction but also raising aspiration and expectation. As such, a reduction in satisfaction can be observed in some areas, essentially those where physical regeneration has been slower.

In the longer-term, the trend is for people's aspirations to



improve along with their satisfaction with the area as a place to live. Improving satisfaction levels in Thornaby and Billingham demonstrate this as the regeneration proposals take shape, and should be reflected in future surveys.

2 Residents who feel they can influence decision making

Overall satisfaction has remained consistently high but the gap between the most and least satisfied has widened.

Empowering people by allowing them to influence decisions is an important part of building strong, sustainable communities and developing a community-led approach to cohesion, as well as helping foster a greater sense of belonging.

Residents who feel empowered to make a difference to their local areas often have a higher quality of life. The “able to personally influence local decisions” question was added to the IPSOS MORI Residents Survey in 2004, when net agreement was -27%; this has fallen to -37% in 2006.

However, this needs to be seen in the context of the national Citizenship Survey, which shows most people in the country do not believe they can influence local decisions. Also, the borough’s IPSOS MORI survey took place at a time when high profile decisions were being considered about local police and health services (nationally driven reconfiguration of key services over which Renaissance had limited direct influence).

The proportion of people in Stockton Borough satisfied with opportunities to influence decisions is in the top 25% of results for similar boroughs nationally.

3 Feeling that people from different backgrounds can live together harmoniously

New indicator.

The question of residents getting on well together was added to the local IPSOS MORI Residents Survey in 2006. At this time, net agreement was 48%, with the lowest levels in Central Stockton (27%) and the highest

in South Stockton (66%). Renaissance will continue to collect this data as a measure of progress against the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Community Cohesion Strategy.

4 The number of households in deprived wards

Gap narrowed - 57% fewer households are in the most deprived areas.

In 2000, 25,236 of the borough’s households were in the most deprived 10% of wards nationally (measured by the Index of Multiple Deprivation). By 2004, this figure had fallen to 13,073 households, a trend which has continued with 10,829 households in this category by

2007. This fall of 14,407 is a clear improvement and represents a 57% reduction, showing how the gap between the most and least deprived areas of the borough has narrowed.



5 The number of children living in low income households

Gap narrowed significantly between the borough and England.

The actual number of children living in poverty is collected by the Census. In Stockton-on-Tees, 20.3% of dependant children lived in households with no-one working in 2001, compared with 17.6% across England. The figure was highest in Portrack and Tilery (46.1%), whilst in Wolviston just 3.3% of dependant children lived in households with no-one working.

As Census data is only available every ten years, we can consider the number of children at nursery, primary and secondary schools eligible for and taking free school

meals as an indicator of how many live in low income households. Since 2000 there has been a noticeable reduction in the numbers of children eligible for free school meals in Stockton-on-Tees (5% decrease), the north-east (3.4%) and England (1.9%). This means the gap between Stockton-on-Tees and England has narrowed from 3.2% to 0.6% in seven years. The gap between the borough and England for those children actually taking up their eligibility for free school meals has halved over the same time period.

6 Residents who feel that their local area is getting better or worse

Large variations across geographies but very high performance in the most disadvantaged area.

Linked to satisfaction as a place to live are residents' aspirations for the area for the future, with more positive outcomes associated with improved quality of life. The question relating to the area getting better or worse was added to the IPSOS MORI Residents Survey in 2004. In 2004, 26% felt the area had got better and 28% worse. In 2006, only 24% felt the area had improved although 6% more (48%) felt it had stayed the same. However, there is a large variation in responses across the borough with for example

32% of North Stockton residents feeling the area had got better compared to only 17% in the South. Varying levels of optimism across the borough can be linked to the programme of physical regeneration – in Thornaby

and Billingham, for example, town centre redevelopment has been a lengthy process and as physical developments become more apparent we would expect the data to improve.

Neighbourhood Renewal Areas were added to the IPSOS MORI Residents Survey in 2006. These are the borough's most disadvantaged areas but, interestingly, 35% of their people felt the local area had improved over the last two years, compared with 24% for the borough as a whole. Significantly fewer of these residents felt the area had declined – 19%, as against 26% for the whole borough. The data therefore shows more people from the most deprived communities feel the area has improved.

Environment

7 Percentage of household waste that has been:

- Recycled
- Use to recover heat, power, and other energy sources
- Sent for composting
- Land-filled

Good performance for energy recovery and waste to landfill.

Stockton-on-Tees performs well in relation to waste disposal, with significantly lower rates of landfill than the all-England average. In 2006/07 the council was the second best performing unitary and fifth best council overall for the amount of waste sent to landfill. In 2004/05, the borough sent only 5.34% of waste to landfill, compared with 66.87% for England. This figure rose slightly to 8.68% in 2006/07 but was still down from 11.0% in 2005/06, a variance due to the capacity of the

Energy to Waste Plant. The majority of the borough's household waste is recovered, with 70.05% of waste used to recover heat, power and other energy in 2006/07, compared with 11.95% nationally for 2005/06. Whilst the gap between the borough and England has increased slightly for recycling levels, Stockton-on-Tees outperforms the rest of the country in relation to waste management.

8 Household waste collected per head of population

Gap narrowed between the borough and the UK average, although amount of waste per head of population in the borough remains high.

Nationally and locally, the amount of household waste collected per head of population has dropped since 2003/04. The gap between the borough and the rest of the UK has narrowed from 49.8kg in 2003/04 to 41kg in 2005/06. However, although it is reducing, the borough's residents produce substantially more waste per head than the English average and a significant improvement is required to reduce this.

Various local factors affect household waste levels, such as the increasing number of affluent households across the south of the borough, especially Ingleby Barwick (one of the largest housing estates in Europe) and also the increasing size of the university campus on Teesdale.

	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007
Stockton	488.9kg	497.3kg	479.6kg	476.1kg
All England	439.1kg	444.2kg	438.6kg	



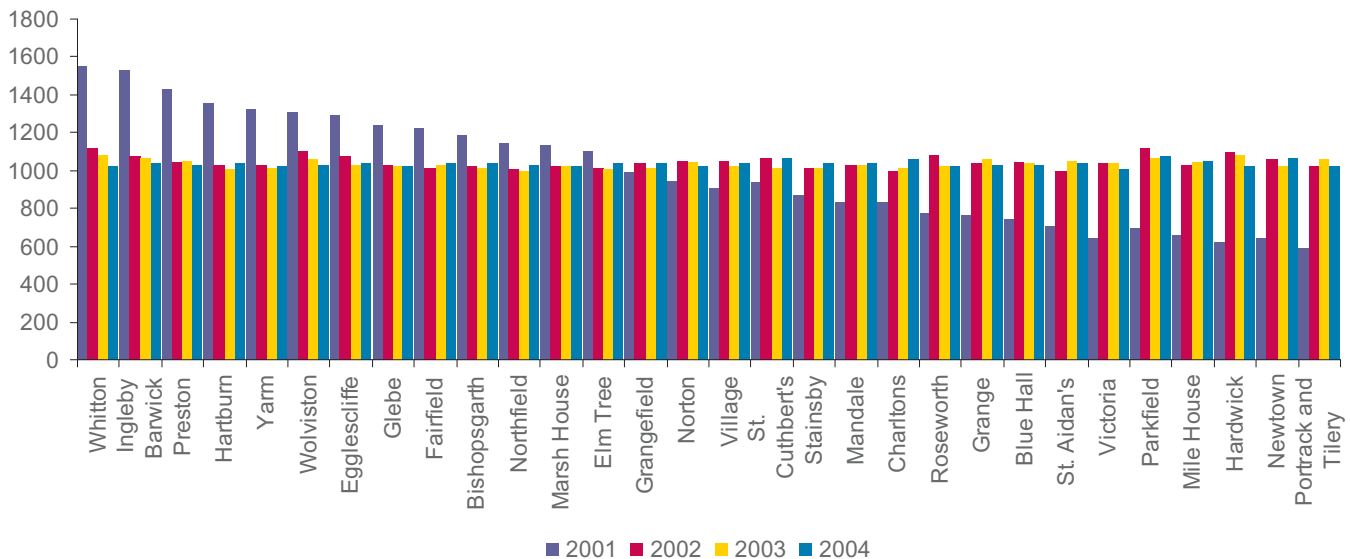
9 Traffic volume/intensity/mode of travel

Gap between most and least affluent communities has narrowed.

At the 2001 Census, 26.84% of English households had no car or van, but 1.39% had four or more. Stockton-on-Tees compares favourably with the rest of the Tees Valley, with both the lowest percentage of households without a car or van (29.6%) and the highest rate of two

car ownership (22.4%). The lowest rate of car availability was recorded in Portrack and Tilery, where 64.79% of households had no car or van, and the highest in Ingleby Barwick, where the figure was 3.5%.

Vehicles per 1000 households



In the Portrack and Tilery ward, the next three years to 2004 saw the number of vehicles licensed per 1000 households rise by 74%, a figure mirrored in the other areas of low ownership of 2001, such as Hardwick and Newtown. This suggests a narrowing of the gap between the most and least affluent wards. However, there has been a significant reduction in vehicles licensed in the areas with higher 2001 ownership. Areas of high ownership in 2001 had fallen, while those with

lower ownership rose, diminishing the inequalities in ownership.

Higher employment levels and increased income and home prices mean access to a vehicle is no longer linked to deprivation. Also, as more affluent communities make greater use of public transport we must now be cautious about using access to a vehicle as a measure of affluence.

I 0 Satisfaction with the local bus service

- Adults
- Young People

Performance worsening.

Satisfaction with local bus services is taken from the BVPI General User Satisfaction Survey, a postal survey conducted every three years, commissioned to collect adult residents' views. Overall net satisfaction with the buses fell from 39.0% in 2000 to 16.2% in 2006. Other factors relating to the service also fell; satisfaction with

frequency (-14.5%), satisfaction with the number (-7.6%) and state (-2.8%) of bus stops, whether buses run on time (-10.7%) and how easy they are to get on and off (-2.3%). Young people have expressed the view that public transport is not affordable.

I 1 Satisfaction with parks and open spaces

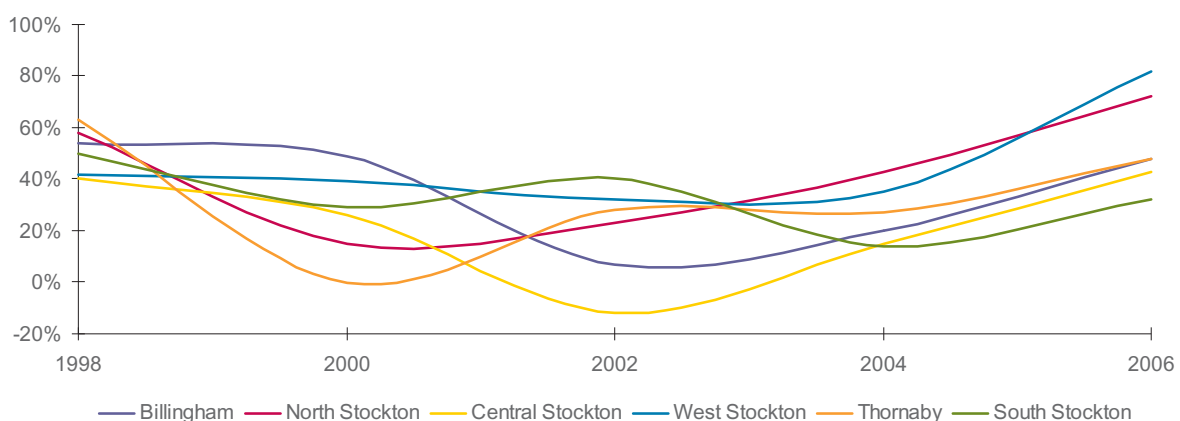
Despite big improvements in overall satisfaction, the gap between the most and least satisfied has grown.

Satisfaction with parks and open spaces rose to 73% in 2006 (IPSOS MORI Residents Survey), up significantly from 51% in 2002 and 2004. During this time, the Council had made a large investment in town centre parks such as Ropner Park, while Stockton achieved success in both Northumbria and Britain in Bloom,

winning Best City in the national competition in 2007.

Across the borough, overall satisfaction increased to 73%, with net satisfaction up to 53%. However, in some areas it fell, widening the range in satisfaction levels across the borough from 23% in 1998 to 50% in 2006.

Net Satisfaction with Parks and Open Spaces by Township





12 Air cleanliness (estimated atmospheric particle emissions)

Good and improving performance both locally and against national averages.

A 2006 refresh of the air quality data used in the Index of Multiple Deprivation shows improved air quality in 57% of locations. The largest of these increases has been in Western Parishes, Fairfield, Northern Parishes and

Mandale and Victoria. The borough outperforms the national average and its achievement against national air quality objectives is particularly impressive given the level of heavy industry in the Tees Valley.

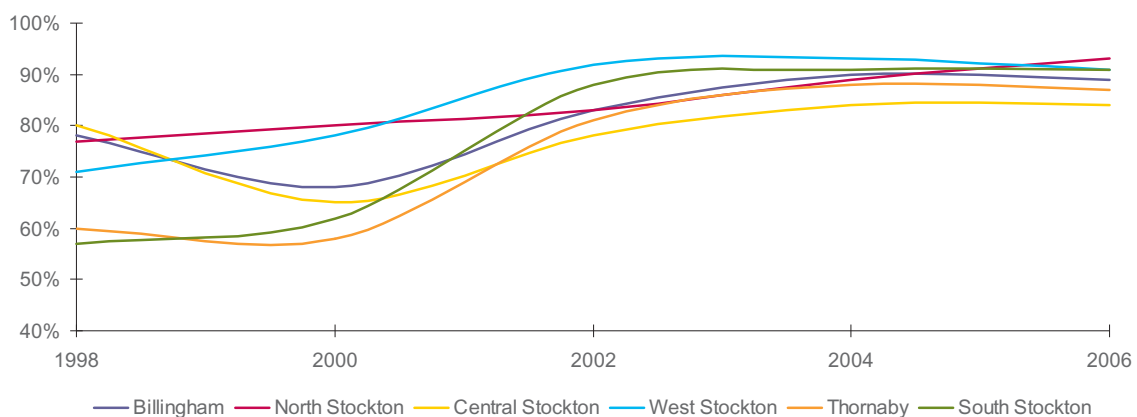
Additional 1. Satisfaction with refuse collection, street cleaning and recycling facilities

Gap narrowed in all areas across the borough.

Satisfaction with refuse collection increased in all areas of the borough between 1998 and 2006, most significantly in South Stockton (up 34%). The gap has diminished from 23% to 9% over the same period, with net satisfaction above 80% in all the borough's townships.

Significant improvements in street cleaning and recycling facilities have helped narrow the gap between the different areas of the borough. For street cleaning, the gap closed by 10% with satisfaction above 50% in all areas, while the difference in net satisfaction for recycling facilities has fallen by 30%.

Net Satisfaction with Refuse Collection by Township



Community Safety and Well-Being

13 Facilities for young people

On average the gap in satisfaction levels has remained stable.

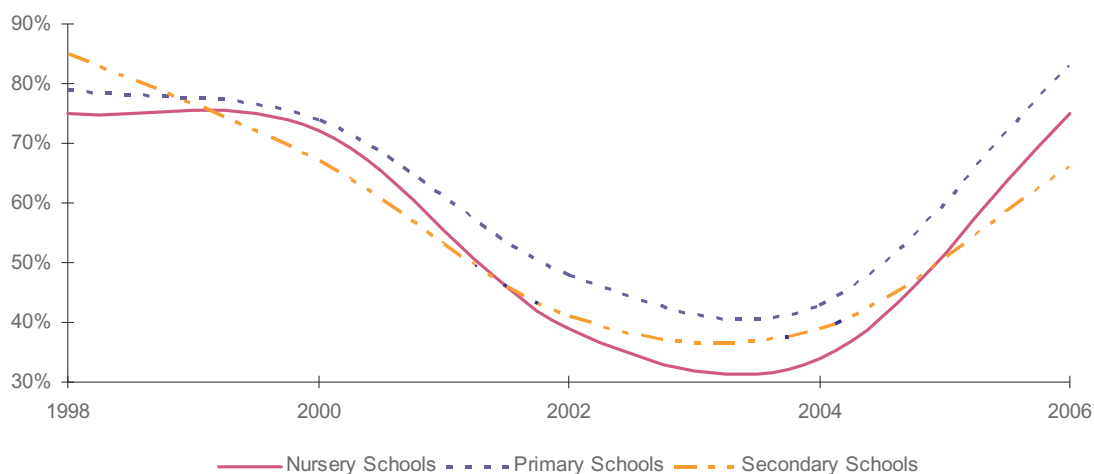
Users of educational services in Stockton-on-Tees remain highly satisfied with these and net satisfaction with nursery, primary and secondary schools has recovered from the 2004 fall in performance to 75%, 83% and 66% respectively.

The gap of 44% across the range of satisfaction with nursery schools has remained stable since 1998. Satisfaction varies across the borough but the gap in

satisfaction with primary schools has been stable at 21% since 1998.

For secondary schools, the gap widened between 1998 and 2006, from 33% to 48%, and the Building Schools for the Future project aims to address this by consulting residents on their views for improving local secondary schooling.

Net Satisfaction with Schools



Areas where there are facilities for young people experience lower levels of anti-social behaviour and residents tend to have a higher quality of life. The 2006 IPSOS MORI Residents Survey identified unruly youths

and the associated perception of a lack of facilities for children and young people as key reasons for dissatisfaction with the borough.



14 Residents who feel safe when outside

- During the day
- At night

Performance is improving with some narrowing of the gap.

We have monitored how safe people feel during the day and at night time since 1998. In 2006 residents are significantly more likely to feel 'very safe' than in 2000 and 2002, with 94% feeling safe outside in the daytime and 54% after dark (IPSOS MORI, 2006). This is similar to 1998 when 94% of residents felt safe in the daytime compared with 56% in the dark but represents improvement on the early part of the current decade when figures showed a dip in performance. Net feeling of safety levels have risen across most of the borough since 1998 (IPSOS MORI Residents Survey 1998), with

Billingham recording a 12% increase in the number of people who feel safe walking alone outside in the day.

Disparities in the measure for after dark fear of crime have reduced across the borough with the range in net safety falling from 64% to 52%. However, the net feeling of safety has reduced in Central Stockton, Thornaby and South Stockton, as the average percentage of people feeling safe walking alone outside after dark fell from 25% to 20% between 1998 and 2006. So, while the gap has narrowed, it is accompanied by a fall in feelings of safety after dark across the borough.

15 Levels of recorded crime

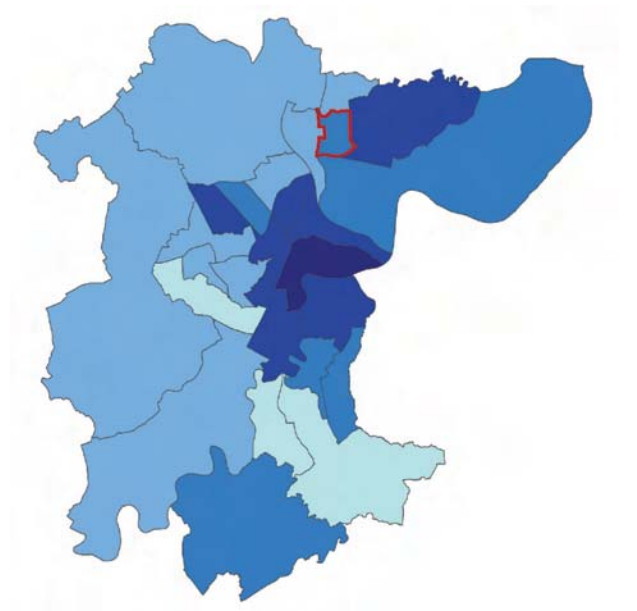
Excellent performance overall with the gap narrowing in most areas.

Crime is a key determinant of quality of life for people living and working in the borough. It is linked to deprivation, as areas of higher deprivation normally experience higher crime levels. The 'town centre effect' also affects some crime, with crime and disorder always higher in an area around a town centre. In Stockton Borough, we see this in Stockton Town Centre ward, Stainsby Hill ward (which covers Thornaby town centre) and Billingham Central Ward, as well as Yarm and Norton North wards, where there are more than average

pubs, restaurants and shops. Teesside Retail Park is within Mandale & Victoria ward, which so also sees some effect of higher crime rates.

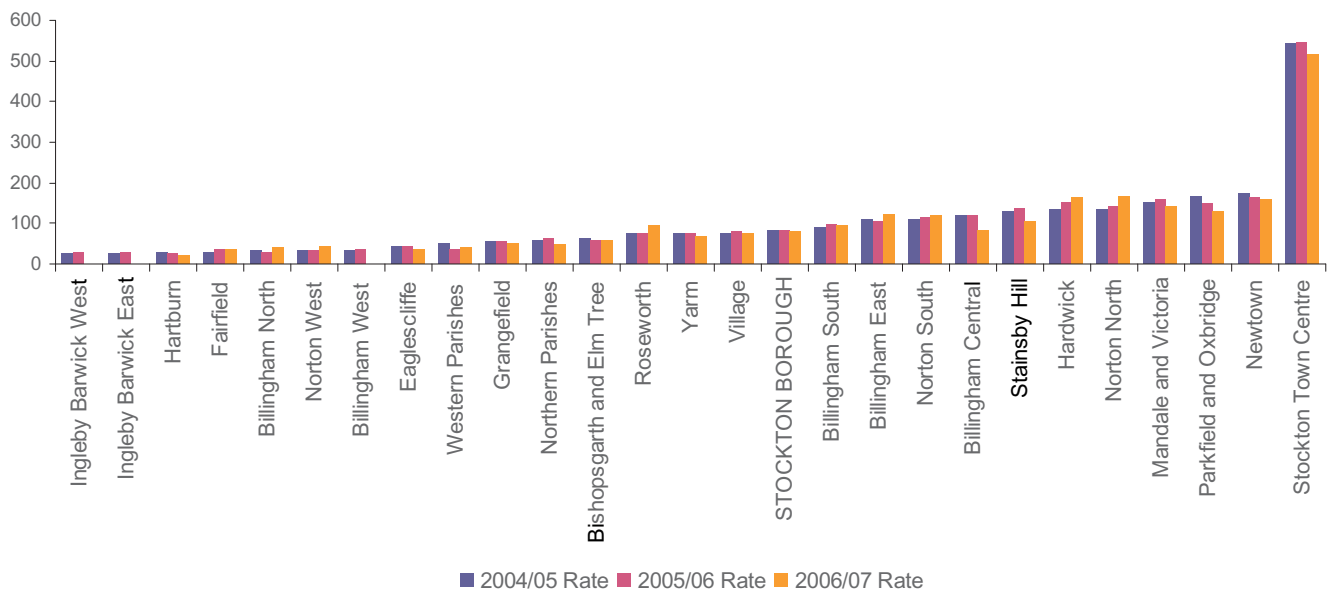
The Stockton Town Centre ward has the highest crime rate, recording more than 542.4 crimes per 1000 residents in 2004/05, falling to 516.5 in 2006/07. In 2004/05 Ingleby Barwick West recorded the lowest crime rate per 1000 population, with 25.7 crimes per 1000 population a record continued in 2006/07 with only 19.9 crimes per 1000 population.

From 2004/05 to 2006/07, crime fell significantly in many areas: by 31.2% in Billingham Central and by over 20% in Ingleby Barwick West, Parkfield and Oxbridge, Ingleby Barwick East, Hartburn and Stainsby Hill. In 2006/07, Ingleby Barwick continues to record the lowest crime levels while, for town centres, significantly higher recorded rates of crime continue. Generally, rural areas have lower crime rates than the urban centres.



Total Crime Rate - darker colour shows higher

Changing Crime Rates





- **Violence against person**

Three wards – Stockton Town Centre, Mandale and Victoria and Newtown – account for 41% of violent crime. The gap between violence in different wards of the borough rose from 127.5 crimes per 1000 population in 2004/05 to 134.7 by 2006/07.

- **Robbery**

The very small numbers of robberies across the borough (most are in Stockton Town Centre) mean it is not possible to analyse data in detail, as victims become identifiable and small changes in actual numbers can cause large percentage changes in crime rates, distorting real trends.

- **Domestic Burglaries**

The gap between burglary rates in different wards of the borough fell from 44.0 crimes per 1000 households in 2004/05 to 35.4 by 2006/07.

- **Thefts of vehicles and Theft from vehicles**

Vehicle crime has declined in the borough since 2004/05, with theft of vehicles down by 19% and thefts from vehicles down by 28%. Vehicle crime has decreased in all areas except Fairfield, Hardwick, Norton West, Roseworth and Western Parishes and the gap between the wards of the borough has decreased from 38.5 crimes per 1000 population in 2004/05 to 37.9 by 2006/07.

16 Number of arrests for Class A Drug Supply Offences

There were 176 arrests for Class A supply offences in 2006/07, above the increased target of 161 but slightly below the 179 arrests in 2005/06, when the target was 153 arrests. This is partly due to a 12% decrease in total drugs crime in the same period, from 529 drug crimes in 2005/06 to 466 drug crimes in 2006/07. Nationally,

Performance remains consistently high.

police recorded drug offences were 9% up over the same period, but Home Office data has indicated that there are likely to be lower numbers of problem drug users, opiate and crack users in the North East compared to the national average.

17 The proportion of homes which were non-decent

Large improvements in performance have narrowed the gap between the borough and the national average.

An indication of non-decent homes is the proportion of local authority housing not meeting the decent homes standard. In Stockton-on-Tees, non-decent housing reduced from 86% in 2003/04 to 35% in 2006/07. The national average also fell in this time and the borough

retains a higher rate of non-decent dwellings than the England average. Nevertheless, the gap between the national and local figures reduced from 49% in 2003/04 to around 5% in 2005/06.

		2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007
Non-decent Dwelling	Stockton	86.00%	58.00%	26.80%	35.00%
	All England	37.00%	35.00%	21.20%	

Health

18 SMRs (Standard Mortality Ratios) for avoidable and other potentially reducible causes of death

The gap has narrowed both within the borough and against the England average for deaths from circulatory disease and within the borough for cancer deaths.

Circulatory disease mortality rates per 100,000 population dropped by 37% in the borough between 1996 and 2005 from 173.3 to 108.5. Across England, the rate fell by 33%, from 135.4 to 90.4, over the same period. The narrowing gap between circulatory disease mortality rates per 100,000 population in Stockton-on-Tees and England, from 37.9 in 1996-1998 to 18.1 in 2003-2005, demonstrates the reduction in health inequalities.

Also there has been a narrowing of the gap between neighbourhood renewal areas and the rest of the borough in terms of mortality rates from circulatory diseases. This reduction of the gap from 23.3% to 22.6% shows that not only are residents of the borough becoming as healthy as the England average, residents in our most disadvantaged communities are beginning to move towards being as healthy as their counterparts in more affluent areas.



Although cancer mortality per 100,000 population is down 12% from 156.7 in 1996 to 138.5 in 2005, compared with a 14% fall across England from 138.4 to 119.0, the gap between local and national rates has

widened from 18.3 in 1996-1998 to 19.5 in 2003-2005. However the gap between the most disadvantaged areas and the rest of the borough has narrowed from 21.3% in 1998-2000 to 20.7% in 2002-2004.

		1996-98	1997-99	1998-00	1999-01	2000-02	2001-03	2002-04	2003-05
Cancer mortality rates per 100,000 population	Stockton	156.7	158.0	154.5	155.0	151.2	149.9	144.9	138.5
	All England	138.4	134.9	132.0	128.8	126.5	124.0	121.6	119.0
	Gap	18.3	23.1	22.5	26.2	24.7	25.9	23.3	19.5

19 Low birth weight babies

The Gap between the borough and the England average has widened.

The percentage of low birth weight babies has increased in the borough, across the North East and England since 1999, yet the rate of increase has been more pronounced in Stockton-on-Tees. The 1999 rate of low birth weight babies was lower in Stockton-on-Tees than England, at 7.5% compared with 7.6% for England.

In 2003, these increased to 8% in Stockton-on-Tees and 7.7% in England. Between 1999 and 2003 there was an 8.7% difference in percentage of low birth weight babies across the wards of Stockton, with the lowest occurring in the Northern Parishes (3.4%) and the highest in Stockton Town Centre (12.1%).

20 Conception rates, females under 18 years

The gap between the borough and the regional and England average has widened.

In 1998-2000, there were 44.5 under-18 conceptions per 1000 in Stockton, compared with a national average of 45.0 per 1000, significantly lower than the North East average of 54.2 per 1000. However, whilst the national and regional rate fell 3.4% between 1998-2000 and 2003-2005, it increased by 4.4% in the borough, so the gap has increased.

It should be noted that the baseline year was an exceptional one in Stockton-on-Tees, which has distorted the figures. Across the borough's wards is a large variance in the under-18 conception rate – considerably lower in Fairfield (7.8 conceptions per 1000 girls aged 15-17) than the other wards, with the highest rate in Stockton Town Centre (84.8 conceptions per 1000 girls aged 15-17).

21 Average life expectancy

Despite men living longer, the gaps for male life expectancy have widened, whereas women are living longer and the gap between the borough and the England average has reduced.

Life expectancy has increased nationally and locally, but trends are more apparent when data is examined for males and females, as females have a longer life span.

In Stockton-on-Tees, male life expectancy has increased from 73.7 years in 1996-1998 to 75.7 years in 2003-2005 – higher than the other Tees Valley authorities but still behind the national average. The gap has widened from 1.10 years in 1996-1998 and 0.84 years in 2001-2003 to 1.12 years in 2003-2005. In Neighbourhood Renewal Areas the gap to the borough as a whole widened slightly from 3.7% in 1998-2000 to 3.9% in 2002-2004.

Female life expectancy in the borough rose from 78.4 years in 1996-1998 to 80.0 years in 2003-2005. It is similar to the other Tees Valley authorities and, although still behind the national average, the gap has narrowed from 1.4 years in 1996-1998 to 1.07 years in 2003-2005. The gap between Neighbourhood Renewal Areas and the borough as a whole has decreased from 3.5% in 1998-2000 to 2.5% in 2002-2004.

Local trends drive improvements in life expectancy, yet figures continue to show large differences, with the longest in Billingham West (82.2 years) and lowest in Stockton Town Centre (71.3 years), a difference of 10.9 years.

22 Healthy life expectancy

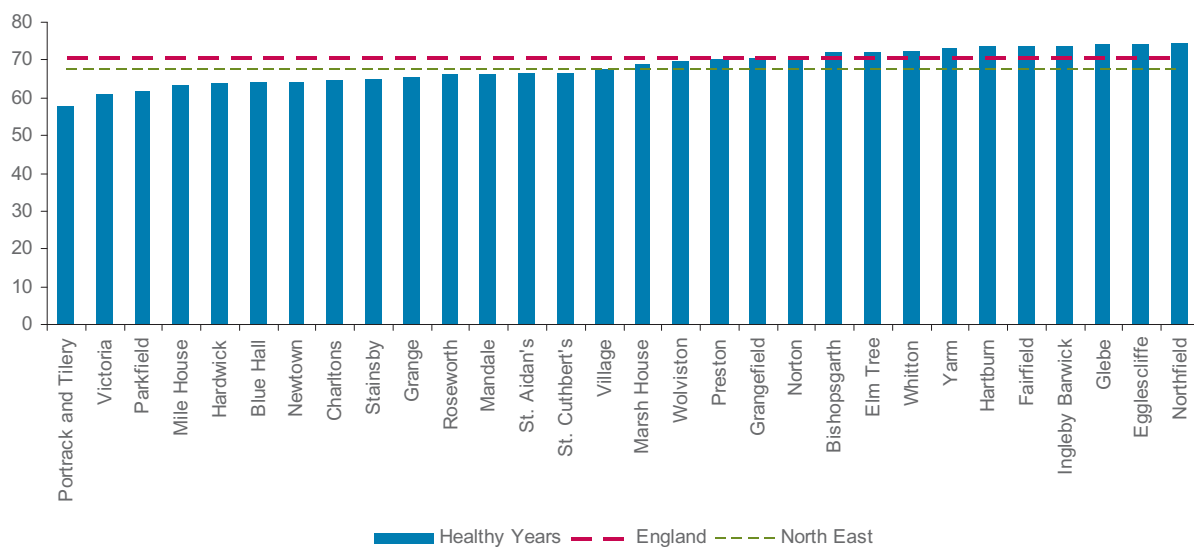
A fuller measure of life expectancy is the number of years free of ill-health and disability. The data has only been modelled for 2001 and is therefore based on the 1997 wards, but shows a large difference across the borough, ranging from 58.1 years in Portrack and Tilery

Good performance has been observed.

to 74.3 years in Northfield. Most wards have healthy life expectancies higher than the North East average (67.4 years), with some better than the national average (70.6 years).



Healthy Years of Life



Additional 2. Potential Years of Life Lost

The gap has narrowed between the most and least affluent areas.

The Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) indicator is an annual, age adjusted, rate of years of potential life lost per 1000 population. Between 1997 and 2001 the areas with the lowest YPLL figures were Egglescliffe, Ingleby Barwick West, Fairfield, Northern Parishes and Ingleby Barwick East (under 60 years lost), with the highest in Billingham East, Stockton Town Centre, Billingham South, Norton North and Hardwick (more than 100 years lost).

Between 2000 and 2003 the Northern Parishes, Yarm, Grangefield, Norton West and Fairfield had the lowest YPLL figures, with the highest generally similar to those in 1997-2001. Noticeably, 102 areas saw a reduction in years of potential life lost between the period 1997-2001

and 2000-2003, with the largest decreases occurring in Billingham North (-26.7%) and Mandale and Victoria (-25.0%) as well as Roseworth and Parkfield and Oxbridge.

The average number of potential life years lost between 1997 and 2001 for the borough was 77.3 years; this reduced to 69.0 years between 2000 and 2003. This indicates that health inequalities are reducing across the borough, with residents of more deprived areas having broadly similar life opportunities as those of the more affluent areas in relation to health.

Economic Regeneration

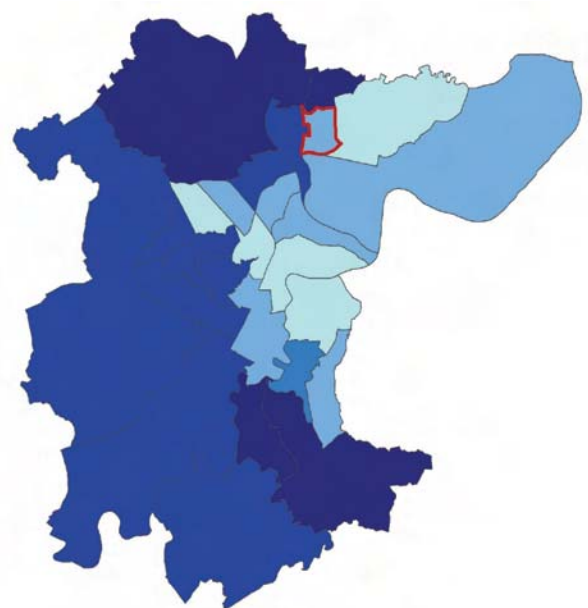
23 Proportion of people of working age in employment

Gap narrowed both between the borough and the England average as well as between the most and least affluent areas of the borough.

Over the last 30 years, local employment has declined in traditional industries such as manufacturing and engineering. In 1991 24,000 people worked in manufacturing in the Borough, against just 10,000 in 2005. Over the same period, service sector jobs increased by 50%. The percentage of Job Seekers Allowance claimants in 2001 ranged from 0.8% in Ingleby Barwick West to 14.4% in Stockton Town Centre – a difference of 13.6%.

The gap between the borough’s most disadvantaged and most affluent areas has reduced, with the largest decreases in Job Seekers Allowance claimants in the historic pockets of high unemployment.

Encouragingly, this has been mirrored by a narrowing gap between local and national unemployment trends.



Employment 2007 - - Darker shading shows more employment

Employment Rate (Annual Population Survey)





24 Proportion of young people in full-time education, training or employment

Gap narrowed both between the borough and the England average as well as between the most and least affluent areas of the borough.

In 2005, 9% of the borough's school leavers were not in education, employment or training, compared with 8% nationally, and with a large variation across the borough, from 0% in Northern Parishes to 21% for Mandale and Victoria and Hardwick. By 2006 the borough figure had fallen to 6%, compared with a national average of 8%,

and the difference between different areas had narrowed, varying from 0% in Northern Parishes and Norton West to 16% in Hardwick. So not only has the gap between the borough's most deprived and affluent communities reduced, it is now outperforming the national average.

25 New business registrations

Gap narrowed between the borough and the England average.

An increasing number of start-up businesses has been created. Business support programmes helped 692 businesses start in 2006-07 compared with 340 in 2004-05.

Encouragingly, there VAT registrations per 10,000 adult population have increased in Stockton from 18.4 in 1997 to 21.3 in 2005, although this is still lower than the North

East and England averages. A reduction in the gap between Stockton and England from 23.0 in 1997 to 16.9 in 2005 is supplemented by a 15.8% increase in VAT registration per 10,000 adult population in Stockton, compared with an 8.5% increase in the North East and a 3.2% reduction across England.

26 Business survival rates

Gap between the borough and the England average has widened.

Information from stock registrations reveals increases in businesses surviving – 21.2% across Great Britain, 14.6% across the North East and 9.5% in Stockton-on-Tees. Therefore whilst there is an improved picture of the local economy based on business survival locally, the data suggested that the improvement is less in

Stockton-on-Tees than in the rest of the country and thus the gap has widened. The borough does have a higher rate of stock registrations than the other Tees Valley authorities but the Sustainable Community Strategy highlights developing a more entrepreneurial spirit as an area for action.

27 Satisfaction with the local area as a business location

Performance is improving strongly.

Whilst there is limited data on satisfaction with the area as a business location, business start-up figures suggest a positive trend is emerging as start-up businesses

supported by Business Link increase and have exceeded the local target before the target matures. area for action.

	Target 2005 to 2008	Actual 2005 to 2007
All Start Ups	969	1370
Deprived Areas	255	529

Also, the IPSOS MORI Residents Survey shows residents to be more optimistic about the future of the borough's economy than in 2004 (28% felt it will improve in the next couple of years, compared with 21%

previously). Moreover, 35% of residents of Neighbourhood Renewal Areas think the economy will improve in the next couple of years – more optimistic than the borough as a whole.

28 User satisfaction with town centres

New Indicator.

In a new question for 2006, 63% of residents are very or fairly satisfied with the quality of town centre markets, with 24% dissatisfied. This satisfaction was highest in South Stockton (63%) and lowest in Billingham (18%) where town centre development has proceeded slower

than had been hoped. Trend analysis will be possible following the 2008 residents survey and should reflect the large amount of redevelopment activity by Renaissance in these areas.



Additional 3. Dwelling Prices

House prices at the lower end of the market have risen higher than those at the top, thus narrowing the gap in house prices.

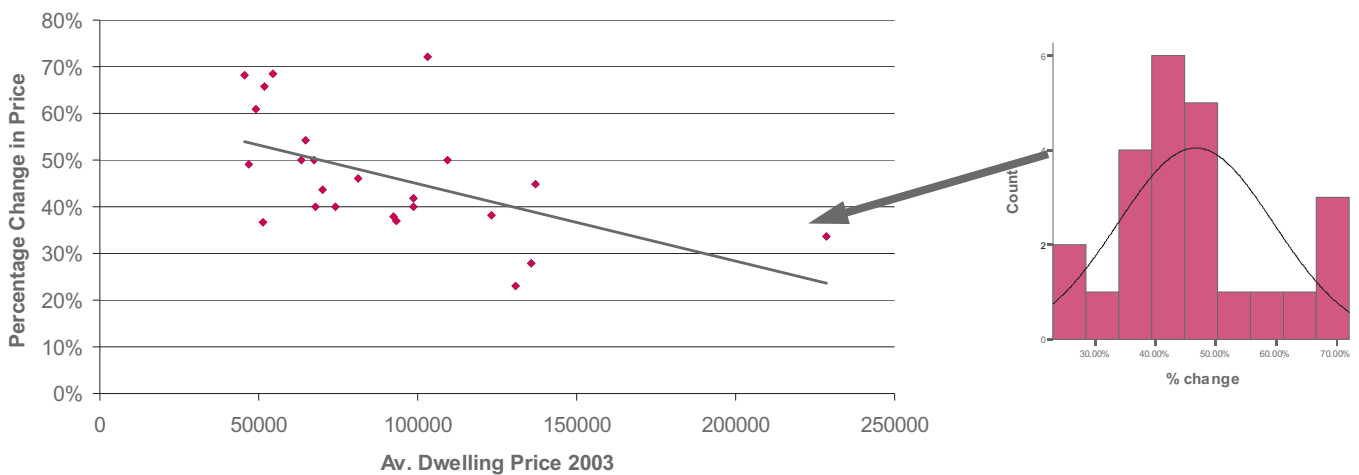
Average house prices in the borough continue to rise substantially, from £116,578 in June 2004 to £156,022 in June 2007, up 34%. This has had an impact on the ability of households to enter the housing market.

The 2005 Land Valuation Survey for Stockton showed house prices to be above the national average in Northern Parishes, Western Parishes and Yarm, whilst prices in Stockton Town Centre and Newtown struggled

compared with the rest of the borough.

Importantly, those houses showing the largest percentage price increases over this period were the least expensive ones in 2003. Therefore, as the largest increases in value were recorded at the bottom end of the housing market, this would suggest a trend of increasing prosperity across the borough and a more equal distribution of affluence.

Dwelling Prices



Education and Lifelong Learning

29 3-year-olds in pre-school

Gap widened.

The 1709 three-year-olds in pre-school in Stockton-on-Tees is a slight decrease from the previous term. This reflects the 17% fall in the number of free early education places taken up by three and four year olds in

the borough since 1997, compared with 7% less in the North East and 33% across England. The recent decline in the borough's birth rate naturally influences this.

30 Proportion of 19-year-olds with level 2 qualifications

Stockton-on-Tees has and continues to perform above the national average.

The percentage of young people achieving level 2 by the age of 19 years old has increased by 3.5% since 2004, to 68.1% in 2006. Stockton continues to perform at a

level above the national average, with no gap to have narrowed.

Percentage of young people achieving level 2 by 19 years old	2004	2005	2006
Stockton	64.6%	68.0%	68.1%
National	62.6%	65.7%	67.5%

31 Population going into further education

The gap has narrowed both between the borough and the all England average and also between the most and least affluent areas of the borough.

Across Stockton-on-Tees in 2006, 77% of school leavers continued into full-time further education, compared with 73% nationally. This is an improvement from 69% locally in 2005, with the national figure remaining static. The gap in the rate of school leavers entering full time further education between Stockton-on-Tees and England has therefore narrowed.

In 2005, the percentage of pupils entering full-time education varied from 47% in Mandale and Victoria to 92% in Northern Parishes – a range of 45%. In 2006, this range had reduced to 31%, from 62% in Hardwick to 92% in the Northern Parishes. This reduced gap shows an increase in life opportunities for all children across the borough.



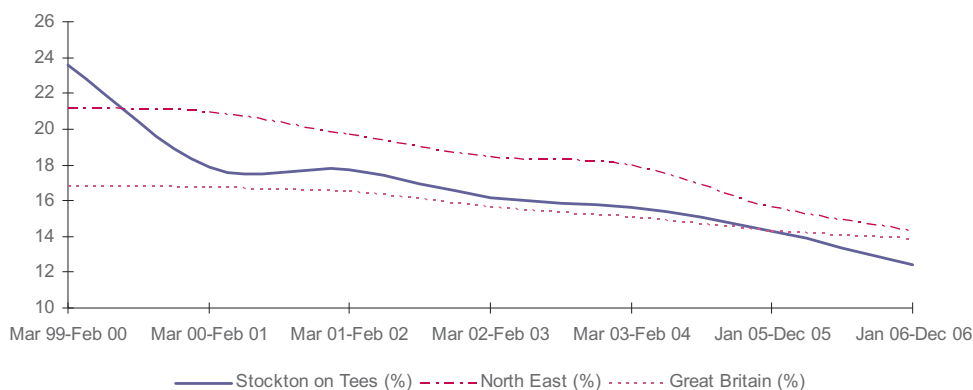
32 Proportion of people of working age with no qualifications

Gap eliminated between the borough and the England average.

Annual Population Survey data shows a noticeable decline in the percentage of the working age population of the borough with no qualifications, from 23.6% in 2000 to 12.4% in 2006 – an 11.2% reduction. This compares with reductions of 7% across the North East and 3% with reductions of 7% across the North East and 3%

across Great Britain over the same time period. From 2000, when the gap between Stockton-on-Tees and Great Britain was 6.8%, Stockton now has 1.4% less working age population with no qualifications than the national average, the gap is now in the borough's favour.

Percentage of Working Age Population with No Qualifications



A 2003 DFES read-write study showed a large variance in adult literacy and numeracy levels across the borough. Yarm has the lowest levels of illiteracy and

poor numeracy (4.1% and 31.0% respectively), with the highest rates in Stockton Town Centre (29.3% low literacy and 71.4% low numeracy).

Adult Numeracy (%)



Adult Literacy (%)



Green areas have highest literacy and numeracy rates.
Red areas have lowest literacy and numeracy rates.

Additional 4. GCSE, Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 2 results

Gap narrowed between the most and least affluent areas of the borough as well as between the borough and the England average.

GCSE results have improved across the borough since 2002/03. On average, 55.7% of 15-year-old pupils achieved five or more A* - C grades in 2004/05, up 7.2% in three years. The areas with the lowest scores in 2002/03 have shown the largest percentage increases in GCSE results, reducing the range of GCSE results from 51% in 2002/03 to 49% in 2004/05.

For Key Stage 2 and 3 results for English, Maths and Science (based on pupil's residence), the gap between the borough's most disadvantaged and most affluent areas also narrowed between 2002/03 and 2005/06, as has the gap between the borough and the UK average. Data for all three subjects at both key stages shows the areas with the lowest scores in 2002/03 to have made the largest percentage improvements to 2005/06.

Arts and Culture

33 Measure of Community Culture

A sense of belonging underpins any community. The IPSOS MORI Residents survey contains a question on sense of belonging and pride in various definitions of the local area.

This shows the least sense of belonging to the Tees Valley as a community, compared with much higher

New indicator.

belonging to Britain. North and South Stockton have the highest sense of belonging to the neighbourhood. Interestingly, Central Stockton has the highest perceived sense of community for the borough and England, but slightly lower for the North East as a whole.



34 Satisfaction with leisure facilities

Despite improving performance, particularly in Neighbourhood Renewal areas, the gap in satisfaction has widened between most and least satisfied communities.

The 2006 Sport England Active People survey found the people of the Borough to be amongst the most active in the north of England, taking part in sport and physical activity both as a source of fun and to improve health. Renaissance aims to create an environment that facilitates safe and enjoyable physical activity and opportunities for people to participate and excel in sport and the borough has hosted ambitious sporting events such as the Seve Trophy golf tournament at Wynyard Golf Club in 2005.

Satisfaction with leisure centres is improving after suffering in 2002, with more than 60% of residents very or fairly satisfied with the quality of service from leisure centres. In 1998, satisfaction with leisure centres was

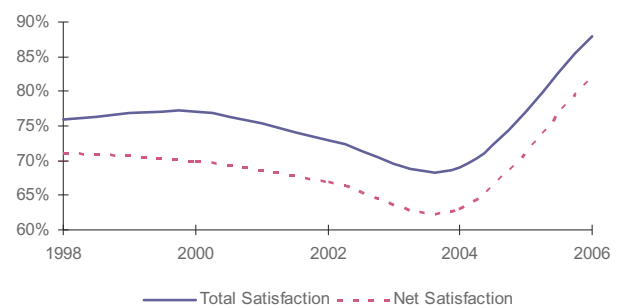
highest in Billingham (57%) compared with 19% in Central Stockton. By 2006, the highest levels of satisfaction were in Central Stockton (62%) and the lowest in South Stockton (-24%). The range of satisfaction levels has increased from 38% in 1998 to 86% in 2006 and, with it, the gap in satisfaction levels. Providing leisure facilities to meet the aspirations of this growing community is a key challenge for Renaissance.

Satisfaction with leisure centres is much higher in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas than across the whole borough, with 78% of residents very or completely satisfied with the level of service compared with 61% generally.

35 Satisfaction with events

Despite strong performance and improved satisfaction overall, the gap between the most and least satisfied communities remains stable.

The Stockton International Riverside Festival (SIRF), Riverside Fringe and Billingham International Folklore Festivals (BIFF) are massive events locally, regionally and nationally. They bring our families and diverse communities together and attract large numbers of visitors to the borough. In 2006, satisfaction had increased to 88% from 76% in 1998. At 87%, satisfaction in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas matches that for the whole borough.



The figure does vary across the borough, with North Stockton recording the highest levels satisfaction for events (up 13% since 1998). Satisfaction levels are lower in Thornaby and South Stockton but the largest increases were observed in Billingham and South Stockton (18%). The gap in satisfaction levels has

remained at 24% since 1998 and as such has not narrowed but it is encouraging that satisfaction levels in Neighbourhood Renewal areas are the same as more affluent neighbours suggesting culture is accessible to all in the borough.

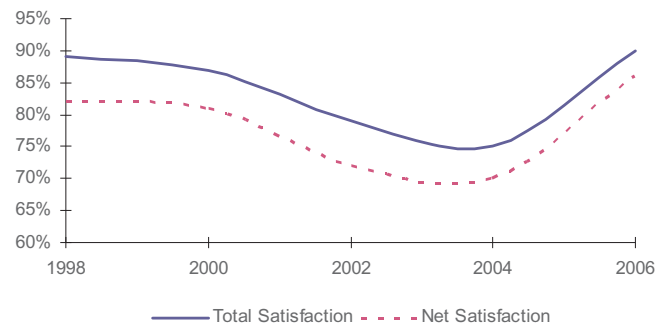
36 Satisfaction with libraries

In 2002 Stockton Council's Library Service gained Beacon status for 'Libraries as a Community Resource' – one of only eight library services in the country to achieve the award.

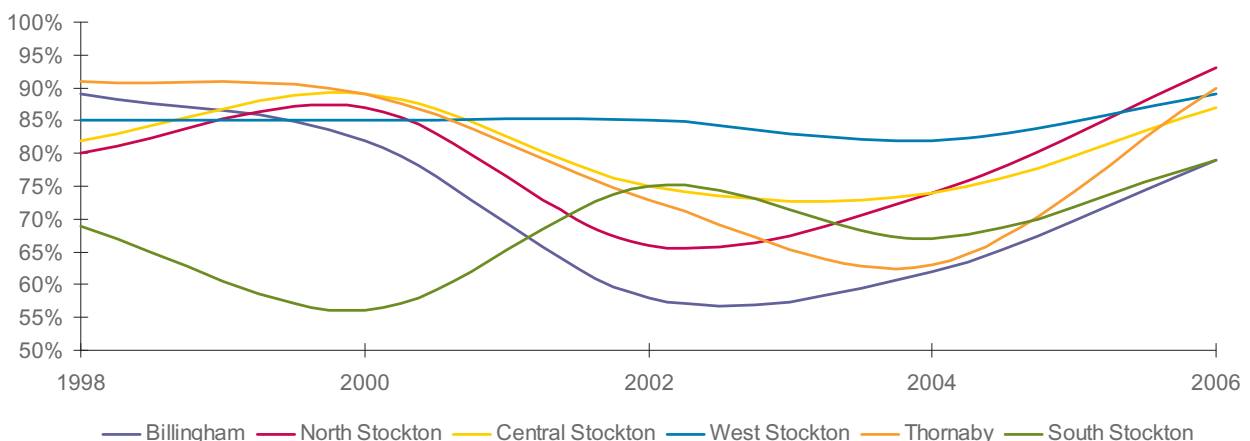
This reflects that historically, satisfaction with libraries has been consistently high in Stockton-on-Tees. In 1998, this was highest in Thornaby, with 91% net satisfaction and lowest in South Stockton at 69%. By 2006, North Stockton had the highest satisfaction rate (93%), with the lowest at South Stockton and Billingham (79%). As such, the gap in satisfaction levels between different communities has reduced from 22% in 1998 to 14% in 2006. Moreover, 93% of residents in the

Gap narrowed / improved.

borough's Neighbourhood Renewal Areas are satisfied with their libraries, a higher level than for the whole borough.



Net Satisfaction with Libraries by Township





Conclusion

The 40 quality of life indicators in this report try to cover all aspects of the lives of the local community. They clearly show that, in comparison with the regional and national averages, Stockton-on-Tees is improving across the environment sector, the community safety and wellbeing aspect, health, economic regeneration, education and lifelong learning, and arts and culture.

There have been improvements in performance in over half of the indicators, narrowing the gap not only between the most deprived and affluent parts of the community but also between the local borough and the national averages.

Although some indicators have observed no change, either through the gap remaining stable or by virtue of being relatively new, this does not mean these quality of life indicators have not improved. It suggests the improvements observed locally and across different areas of the communities have been matched by national improvements. Therefore the quality of life has improved but we have not outperformed other areas.

Performance against indicators have worsened, the gap widening either within the borough or between Stockton-on-Tees and national averages. In many cases these are related to satisfaction levels, which are often low in areas where physical regeneration programmes are not completed. As Renaissance improves residents' quality of life, aspirations rise as they come to expect even higher quality local provisions and services. If these are tied into large scale developments, such as town centre regeneration, satisfaction can sometimes lag behind aspiration.

The data shows real progress against the majority of the quality of life indicators and provides solid information with which Renaissance can drive forward the agenda of promoting achievement and tackling disadvantage. By having a comprehensive knowledge of the changing scenery of the borough, Renaissance has used long term strategies to lessen the gap between the most affluent and deprived communities whilst improving the overall quality of life for the residents of the borough.

If you would like to comment on the overall content of the Strategy or would like further copies, please contact:

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If you would like this information in any other language or format for example large print or audio please contact 'Diversity Team' on 01642 528830.

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