



REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

FINAL REPORT
WORKING NEIGHBOURHOODS FUND

MARCH 2011

CABINET
21 MARCH 2011



Report of: Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

Subject: FINAL REPORT – WORKING NEIGHBOURHOODS FUND

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present the findings of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum following its investigation into the 'Working Neighbourhoods Fund'.

2. SETTING THE SCENE

2.1 At the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 8 July 2010, Members determined their work programme for the 2010/11 Municipal Year. The issue of 'Working Neighbourhoods Fund' was selected as the first Scrutiny topic for consideration during the current Municipal Year.

2.2 The Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) was introduced in April 2008 to support local authorities' efforts to promote enterprise, tackle worklessness and reduce levels of deprivation in the most deprived areas of the country. The fund replaced the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) and incorporated the Deprived Areas Fund (DAF) to create a single discretionary fund for local authorities to work with their partners at a local level. The withdrawal of the WNF will have a major impact on the worklessness agenda in Hartlepool.

3. OVERALL AIM OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

3.1 The overall aim of the scrutiny investigation was to assess the reduction and potential withdrawal of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund, its impact on the worklessness agenda and giving consideration to any potential future funding streams available to maintain service provision and to support how such funds may be utilised.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

4.1 The Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny investigation were as outlined below:-

- (a) To gain an understanding of the overall aim of the services the WNF provides and what positive outcomes look like;
- (b) To examine how WNF services are currently provided in Hartlepool (including the input of partner organisations) and explore their effectiveness, particularly with regard to the worklessness agenda;
- (c) To determine the impact of the reduction and potential withdrawal of the Working Neighbourhood Fund;
- (d) To consider the options for the continuation of WNF service provision giving due regard to:
 - (i) How services could continue to be provided (within the resources available in the current economic climate);
 - (ii) How services can be delivered more efficiently and effectively, particularly in relation to the worklessness agenda.

5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE REGENERATION AND PLANNING SCRUTINY FORUM

5.1 The membership of the Scrutiny Forum was as detailed below:-

Councillors Barclay, Cranney, Cook, Gibbon, James, A E Lilley, London, Rogan and Wells.

Resident Representatives:

Ted Jackson, John Maxwell and Angie Wilcox.

6. METHODS OF INVESTIGATION

6.1 Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum met formally from 12 August 2010 to 20 January 2011 to discuss and receive evidence relating to this investigation. A detailed record of the issues raised during these meetings is available from the Council's Democratic Services.

6.2 A brief summary of the methods of investigation are outlined below:-

- (a) Detailed Officer presentations and reports supplemented by verbal evidence;

- (b) Evidence from the Authority's Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development;
- (c) Presentation and verbal evidence from a representative from the Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency; and
- (d) Verbal and written evidence received from representatives of jobs and the economy themed WNF programmes.

FINDINGS

7 OVERALL AIM OF THE SERVICES THE WNF PROVIDES AND WHAT POSITIVE OUTCOMES LOOK LIKE

- 7.1 The Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum met on 9 September 2010 where Members received detailed evidence from the Economic Development Manager and the Employment Development Officer regarding the historical development of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF), the areas of the town covered by the fund and details of jobs and the economy themed programmes. As part of the evidence, the Employment Development Officer highlighted priority groups the fund targets and the level of funds allocated to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in Hartlepool.
- 7.2 During the presentation by the Employment Development Officer Members of the Forum were informed that the aim of the WNF was to turn around long term unemployment in the most disadvantaged communities and that the fund was dedicated to local councils and community organisations to address worklessness, skills and enterprise and reduce levels of deprivation in the most deprived areas of the country.
- 7.3 The Forum learned that the total WNF allocated to Hartlepool in 2010/11 was over £5 million and that since 2008 approximately 60 projects per year had been approved by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) to deliver bespoke initiatives which had considerably improved economic growth and narrowed the gap within local areas.
- 7.4 The Forum was informed that the WNF links into other initiatives and funding streams including the Regional Employability Framework (REF). This was designed to provide a framework through which partners are able to connect and deliver national priorities for economic development, employment, skills and neighbourhood renewal both at regional, sub-regional and local level.
- 7.5 Members learned that the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Skills Funding Agency (SFA) commissioning and tendering processes are increasingly requiring that all partners deliver employment and training activities in line with the REF. Alongside this, Hartlepool has reconfigured WNF to ensure that it follows the REF and compliments other external funding opportunities. Through creation of the REF model, jobs and the

economy themed projects are provided with the ability to deliver all elements of the journey from initial engagement through to sustained employment. The WNF programmes have been commissioned to add value to existing mainstream service available from agencies including Job Centre Plus and Connexions.

7.6 The Forum noted that the benefits of WNF are that it can be matched with a wide variety of funding streams including:-

- Third Sector funding including Northern Rock, Comic Relief and Lottery Funding
- European Social Fund (ESF)
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- Future Jobs Fund (FJF)
- SFA, i.e. Train2Gain
- Single Programme Funding

7.7 Members were pleased to note that Hartlepool has fully maximised the matching of WNF with other funding streams and partners have been able to offer enhanced services to clients.

7.8 The Forum acknowledged that positive outcomes have been achieved through the use of the WNF where individuals have been supported back into work, to live independently and run their own affairs. Members were also encouraged to note that opportunities for young people to gain employment through programmes such as the Future Jobs Fund, with the appropriate support in place, had proven successful.

7.9 Members were particularly interested in gaining an insight into the business assistance programmes offered by the Council. At the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on the 14 October 2010 the Economic Development Manager indicated that this business assistance programme included advice on HR and current legislation. Financial assistance was also given on a case by case basis including business rate relief and possible rate holiday periods for small to medium enterprises facing financial hardship; individual applications for this assistance were considered by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Procurement.

8 HOW WNF SERVICES ARE CURRENTLY PROVIDED IN HARTLEPOOL AND THEIR EFFECTIVENESS

8.1 The Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum gathered evidence from a number of different sources in relation to the delivery and effectiveness of WNF services in Hartlepool. Information considered by Members is detailed overleaf:-

Evidence from the Economic Development Team

- 8.2 The Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum met on 9 September 2010 and received evidence from the Economic Development Manager and the Employment Development Officer on the jobs and the economy themed services provided through the WNF by Hartlepool Borough Council and the Community and Voluntary Sector within the town.
- 8.3 Members learned that there were 66 WNF programmes being delivered in 2010/11, of which 27 were of the jobs and the economy theme. Members were asked to note that other worklessness programmes also exist under the lifelong learning and health & social care themes. The services provided by the 27 jobs and the economy themed projects included the following:
- Engagement with hard to reach groups
 - Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) Interviews
 - Regular Jobsearch facilities
 - Self-employment and new business start up advice
 - Pre-employment programmes (including preparing for interviews)
 - Volunteering opportunities
 - Links to sector specific training
 - Grants and subsidies for residents to enter into employment and training
 - Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) placements
 - In-work mentoring and aftercare support
 - Pastoral support
 - Specialist support including mental health provision and benefits advice
- 8.4 The Forum was informed that there are key priority groups living within the WNF areas that have been identified as being disadvantaged within the labour market. The jobs and economy themed WNF is particularly targeted at the groups shown below:
- Young people who are at risk of/or who are not in employment, education or training (NEET)
 - Young unemployed/Long term unemployed
 - Adults on incapacity or other sickness related benefits
 - Lone parents
 - Adults with caring responsibilities
 - Adults with no or low level skills
 - Adults with mental health issues or learning disabilities
 - People with disabilities and long term limiting illnesses
 - Ex Offenders
 - Adults at risk of becoming /or who are homeless
 - Adults with drug and alcohol misuse problems

8.5 Members of the Forum were advised that the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) receives approximately 40% of the overall WNF jobs and the economy themed budget.

8.6 Table 1 highlights the VCS contribution to WNF outputs for 2008/09 and 2009/10 relating to residents entering employment, training and volunteering as shown below:-

Table 1 VCS Contribution to WNF outputs.

WNF Outputs	VCS 08/09	Total WNF 08/09	VCS 09/10	Total WNF 09/10
Residents into Employment	303	640	334	874
Residents into Training	305	935	443	1260
Residents into Volunteering	195	195	309	309
Residents Referred	146	146	130	130
Voluntary Sector Contribution to Employment Outcomes for 2008/09		47%		
Voluntary Sector Contribution to Employment Outcomes for 2009/10		38%		

8.7 Members were encouraged to note that WNF projects had overachieved in a number of areas despite the significant impact that the global economic downturn had at a local level over the past three years. Figure for projected and actual outputs for jobs and the economy themed projects in 2009/10 overall are as follows:-

	Actual	Projected
New businesses assisted	898	474
New businesses created	77	63
Clients engaged	2,451	1,869
Clients entering into training	1,394	932
Clients achieving a qualification	651	607

8.8 Members of the Forum were please to see that projects have over-achieved in a period when there has been fewer live vacancies and more people were losing their job/being made redundant.

8.9 The Forum recognised that there may be duplication in the services provided in relation to the worklessness agenda, which could potentially be eliminated by partnership working. Members were told of plans by the Economic Development Team to examine a range of programmes especially in relation

to duplication with a suggestion of organisations coming together to reduce overheads, possibly through the merging of back office functions or simply sharing a building. As part of this review, organisations were being asked to show what they had done to ensure that the future of their organisation was sustainable.

Evidence from the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development

- 8.10 When the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum met on 14 October 2010, Members welcomed the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development, to provide evidence in relation to the current provision of services funded by the WNF in Hartlepool.
- 8.11 The Portfolio Holder indicated that it would be worthwhile examining how services were currently provided, how they were structured and how different organisations work together. One option that may be considered would be the provision of one uniform service across the town as there appeared to be several across different areas in the town but providing the same service. The Portfolio Holder felt that this may result in cost efficiencies and possible streamlining of service provision for the user. It was noted that the Economic Development Team were currently undertaking a review of projects funded through the WNF although it may be necessary for a more radical approach to ensure services were provided by the most appropriate and effective providers.
- 8.12 The Portfolio Holder commented that the level of debate should be raised and co-ordinated in relation to the effective and efficient delivery of these services and that the information gathered as part of the inquiry would inform Members to deal with the bigger crisis' ahead, it was also noted that all organisations need to work together and look at sustainable ways of working to ensure that any relevant grant funding was secured.

ERS Independent Evaluation of WNF

- 8.13 At the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 9 September 2010 Members received details of an independent evaluation of WNF programmes was conducted by ERS in 2008/09 – with the final report being published in April 2009.
- 8.14 Members were interested to learn that overall the evaluation noted that the majority of projects provided good value for money. The report recognised that due to the complexity of the client group that WNF providers worked with it was important not to judge initiatives solely on their 'cost per job rate'. Members were advised that it was difficult to quantify value for money across WNF programmes due to the differing circumstances faced by each individual. The report emphasised the significant barriers that many clients faced in entering into work and their distance from the job market. It

recognised that many of the projects provided a first point of contact and engagement with hard to reach groups including people who were long-term unemployed and young people who are NEET.

- 8.15 The report acknowledged that the services were easily accessible to local residents' and that there was good spatial coverage of employment and training programmes across the WNF geographical areas. There was recognition that WNF providers had improved partnership working with key stakeholders across the town and that the WNF plugged gaps in mainstream Job Centre Plus (JCP) provision by offering day one eligibility for clients (some JCP provision is currently only available after a client is unemployed for six months).
- 8.16 There were high levels of satisfaction recorded with WNF clients who were interviewed and positive feedback on the services offered. There was acknowledgement that projects 'went the extra mile' for the client and provided very good pastoral support. There were areas for improvement identified including a need for some projects who worked with specific priority groups to work closer with statutory agencies including the Youth Offending Service and Connexions. Due to the economic climate, there was also a demand for projects to be reconfigured to ensure that increased levels of support for incapacity benefit claimants was made available to prevent them moving further away from the job market (including intensive mental health support services).

Evidence from Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency

- 8.17 At the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 14 October 2010, Members were delighted to hear evidence from the Manager of the Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency (HVDA).
- 8.18 The Manager of the HVDA provided Members with an insight into the range of programmes currently funded through the WNF in Hartlepool and the success of these programmes in assisting people in their search for work.
- 8.19 The Forum was informed of the work carried out by the HVDA and that in 2009/10 759 volunteers were supported and 375 were recruited, of which 255 were unemployed and 173 were long term unemployed. The Forum was delighted to learn that 32 obtained verifiable sustainable paid employment.
- 8.20 The Forum recognised that in addition to securing employment there were benefits that could not be measured, such as the changes this made to peoples lives and the positive impact having a working role model in the household had on 2nd and 3rd generation families suffering unemployment.
- 8.21 Members of the Forum were particularly interested in the Community Campus programme highlighted in the evidence presented by the Manager of the HVDA. The Forum learned that this was a scheme aimed at getting young people job ready and in a good position to progress through the

recruitment process, by gaining places on entry to employment programmes with local employers. Following participation on the Community Campus scheme it was noted that a number of other schemes were in place which offer 26 to 52 weeks paid employment with the Council or private sector employers. Members were concerned to hear that over 400 applications had recently been received for 4 apprenticeship posts within the Council.

9 IMPACT OF THE REDUCTION AND POTENTIAL WITHDRAWAL OF THE WORKING NEIGHBOURHOODS FUND

9.1 Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum were keen to gain an understanding of the impact the reduction and potential withdrawal of the WNF would have on the worklessness agenda in Hartlepool. Evidence gathered on the impact of the reduction or withdrawal of the fund is detailed below:-

Evidence from the Economic Development Team

9.2 At the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 9 September 2010 Members were advised by the Employment Development Officer that the reduction or removal of the WNF would have a significantly adverse effect on the worklessness, skills and enterprise agenda in Hartlepool (and particularly for those residents and businesses from the most deprived wards). The Forum also noted (with concern), that the loss of the WNF would damage the organisations that deliver the employment, training and business support programmes, as some are wholly dependent on the fund.

9.3 The Forum learned that as of 2008 there were 8 priority neighbourhoods established within the town which had been identified as part of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (as shown below):-

- Burbank
- Dyke House/Stranton/Grange
- Hartlepool NDC
- North Hartlepool (Central Estate, Headland & West View/King Oswy)
- Owton
- Rift House/Burn Valley
- Rossmere
- Throston

9.4 The Forum was informed that 55% of Hartlepool's population currently live in these eight priority neighbourhoods and the town has 17 wards of which 11 fall within the Neighbourhood Renewal area. Members were provided with a copy of the current employment and key worklessness rates within each of the neighbourhood areas as an indication of the ongoing challenges that are still faced and the impact a removal of the WNF may have on these areas, attached as **Appendix A**.

- 9.5 At the meeting of the Forum on 25 November 2010 Members were advised that the loss of the WNF would result in a loss of the structure and skills that currently were in place to assist with the worklessness agenda and that this would happen at a time when these services would be in the most demand.
- 9.6 Members noted that the Economic Development Team were providing support to the VCS regarding exit strategies and redundancy issues.

Evidence from the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development

- 9.7 At the meeting of the Forum on 14 October 2010, the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development expressed concerns that the withdrawal of the Working Neighbourhood Fund would have a profound effect on the town, including the withdrawal of service provision by the local authority and community and voluntary sectors. It was noted that whilst job losses would be a factor in the short term, the longer term effects on the community had yet to be identified.
- 9.8 The Portfolio Holder commented that some local authority services may be mainstreamed but with local authorities also facing dramatic cuts in funding this was questionable. In addition, the reductions in the regional partnerships would also result in less funding available for the North East area.

Evidence from the Voluntary and Community Sector

- 9.9 At the meeting of the Forum on 25 November 2010, following the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), Members were advised by the Employment Development Officer that there would be no funding to replace the WNF when it came to an end on 31 March 2011.
- 9.10 Voluntary and Community Groups, along with representatives from Hartlepool Borough Council jobs and the economy themed WNF programmes gave evidence to the Forum in relation to the numbers of posts which were fully funded by the WNF and the numbers of redundancies their programmes were likely to need to make. Some of the organisations felt that their services would not be of interest to the new agencies likely to take over provision of services (known as prime providers) as they did not directly get people back into employment, but assisted them with the life skills they needed to consider becoming active in the employment market.

10 CURRENT AND FUTURE BUDGET PRESURES AND OPTIONS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF SERVICES CURRENTLY FUNDED BY WORKING NEIGHBOURHOODS FUND

- 10.1 Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum were keen to explore the impact of current and future budgetary pressures and to

examine any options available to continue the services currently funded by the WNF. The Forum considered evidence as follows:-

Evidence from the Economic Development Team

- 10.2 At the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 9 September 2010 Members agreed that the Economic Development Team had an excellent track record of securing external funding on behalf of the Council and third sector groups in Hartlepool and that whilst future funding would be restricted there may still be opportunities. The Emerging Works Programme and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) could provide opportunities for local providers to tender for employment, training and business investment funding. The Forum was informed that the Economic Development Team were working closely with Tees Valley Unlimited to ensure the town can capitalise on funding.
- 10.3 The Forum were also asked to note that as part of the LEPs, the Government announced a £1 billion Regional Growth Fund to help areas and communities at risk of being particularly affected by public spending cuts, the fund will be available in 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 and will help areas most dependent on public sector employment. Private sector and public-private partnerships will be able to bid for funding by demonstrating that their proposal will bring in private investment and support sustainable increases in private sector jobs and growth in their area.
- 10.4 At the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 25 November 2010 the Employment Development Officer gave a presentation to highlight the CSR announcement would result in a loss of £5 million per annum to contribute to the worklessness, skills and enterprise agenda, a loss of specialist services, strong partnerships and established structures that provided a unique service to vulnerable groups, the potential loss of highly skilled workers and all at a time when there would be increased pressures to access provision by residents and their families.
- 10.5 The Employment Development Officer detailed the work which had been carried out with WNF programmes in preparation for the potential withdrawal of the fund completely. Members questioned whether more should have been done to prepare groups at an earlier stage for no further funding streams to be available, especially given that the WNF had a completion date of 31 March 2011 from the outset. However, the Employment Development Officer confirmed that as part of annual WNF verification visits, all WNF providers were advised by the department from the outset that funding would cease within the above timescale. Within these verification visits, WNF providers were also encouraged to consider how they would sustain their activity beyond March 2011. Therefore, WNF providers had up to three years in which to prepare for the eventual ceasing of this funding stream which is sufficient planning time.

- 10.6 The Forum were encouraged to note that Voluntary and Community Groups may have access to apply for funding that would not be available to the public sector, but were advised that that each organisation would need to explore this independently of the Council and that the VCS needed to be in a position to maximise their specialism's and promote and sell their services. Members noted that the VCS could not rely on the Council to source funding and needed to be as pro-active as possible however, Members were please to learn that advice on this was available from the Economic Development Team.

Evidence from Jobs and the Economy Theme WNF Programmes

- 10.7 The Forum was very keen to hear the views of internal and external jobs and the economy themed service providers who received WNF funding. An invitation was extended to all jobs and the economy themed programmes to attend the meeting of the Forum on 25 November 2010 to express their views or to submit written evidence. Representatives expressed the following views:-
- 10.8 Some groups were confident that a number of opportunities exist to exploit their expertise and sell some aspects of their services to the new service providers or businesses; they also felt that there were potential funding opportunities to sub contract services. A number of VCS groups raised concerns that the clients they engaged with needed intensive one to one support which may not be attractive to prime providers and some had been unsuccessful in securing alternative funding to date.
- 10.9 Organisations requested assistance from the Economic Development Team in the future to complete large Government grant applications.
- 10.10 Some groups are developing strategies to look at new ways of working with partners to influence local delivery and also diversifying delivery to meet current and future economic development needs, others are strengthening their business model, revising the target client group and making course more attractive at full cost to ensure sustainability in the future.
- 10.11 Collectively 34 staff are at risk of redundancy from the groups who submitted written evidence to the Forum. No support was required with redundancies other than that already available through HBC internally or provided by the Economic Development Team.
- 10.12 All organisations who submitted written evidence were satisfied with the support received from Hartlepool Borough Council.
- 10.13 Additional comments received requested that the VCS look to include projects currently funded through HBC, such as Hartlepool Working Solutions, in bidding and funding opportunities the public sector are unable apply for, or the potential to sub contract out work should VCS applications be successful. Hartlepool Mind also raised concerns regarding access to

services for people with mental health problems once WNF funding is removed as this service was unique and not attractive to prime providers.

- 10.14 VCS representatives recognised the need to work together and support each other and that where possible resources should be shared and programmes developed in conjunction with other organisations. It was also recognised that there was a need to look at organisations collective resources and utilise these in the best way possible to attract more finance, to ensure expertise was shared and funding was targeted more selectively.
- 10.15 Members were encouraged to note the VCS had recognised the need to work collectively and reduce duplication in order to continue in the provision of worthwhile services.

11 CONCLUSIONS

11.1 The Regeneration and Planning Scrutiny Forum concluded:-

- (a) That the WNF had contributed significantly to the positive outcome of the long term unemployed in Hartlepool and engaged people who would be outside of the reach of normal routes into employment;
- (b) That Hartlepool Borough Council and Voluntary and Community Sectors work well together to secure funding and deliver vital employment services to those most in need;
- (c) That the HBC Economic Development Team have an excellent track record of securing external funding on behalf of the Council and third sector groups in Hartlepool;
- (d) That the withdrawal of the WNF will have a major impact on the ability of organisations to deliver jobs and the economy themed services within Hartlepool;
- (e) That there has been a steep decline in the ability of organisations to provide services due to the in year cuts of WNF from September 2010;
- (f) That there is a greater need for Voluntary and Community organisations to work together to ensure survival and sustainability in the future and to remove duplication and silo working practices;
- (g) That services supporting hard to reach client groups which require intensive one to one support may not be attractive to prime service providers;
- (h) That some organisations may have skills that are of interest to prime providers and these organisations should look to promote and sell on their unique skills where feasible;

- (i) That there may be opportunities for VCS organisations to apply directly for funding in the future;
- (j) That a support arrangements had been put in place to by the Economic Development Team to provide advice on issues such as redundancy rights with the VCS;
- (k) That assistance was available from HBC for businesses in times of hardship.

12 RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 The Regeneration and Planning Scrutiny Forum has taken evidence from a wide range of sources to assist in the formulation of a balanced range of recommendations. The Forum's key recommendations to the Cabinet are as outlined below:-

- (a) That where organisations can independently apply for funding that Hartlepool Borough Council should provide assistance with this process;
- (b) That promotion of support and assistance available for local businesses is undertaken including:-
 - (i) Increasing the awareness of hardship assistance available to businesses from Hartlepool Borough Council, for example through the prominent inclusion of information with business rates demands; and
 - (ii) Ensuring Hartlepool Borough Council staff who deal with local businesses can signpost people to appropriate sources of information and advice at the first point of contact.
- (c) That to encourage and support local businesses in Hartlepool:-
 - (i) The use of local providers to supply goods and services to Hartlepool Borough Council, where economically sensible, is explored; and
 - (ii) The e-quotations system is prominently highlighted to all relevant local businesses.
- (d) That the development of a 10 year jobs and the economy strategy for Hartlepool be explored and that at the outset of this, a working group of voluntary and private sector organisations is established;
- (e) That work is undertaken to establish a jobs and the economy themed social enterprise building on the work of Hartlepool Works, encompassing a partnership between the local authority, private

enterprises and the voluntary sector, to bid for and commission services to support people into employment.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee is grateful to all those who have presented evidence during the course of our investigation. We would like to place on record our appreciation, in particular of the willingness and co-operation we have received from the below named:-

Hartlepool Borough Council:

Councillor Pamela Hargreaves - Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development

Dave Stubbs - Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Damien Wilson – Assistant Director of Regeneration and Planning

Antony Steinberg – Economic Development Manager

Mick Emerson – Principal Economic Development Officer (Business)

Patrick Wilson – Employment Development Officer

Jackie McGarry - Economic Development Officer

External Representatives:

Keith Bayley – Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency

Ilse Bray – Wharton Trust

Carl Crossman – Wharton Trust

Jan Hollis – Hartlepool Carers

Tracy Jefferies – Hartlepool Carers

Julie Marshall – Owton Manor West

Jimmy McKenna – Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency

Dave Thompson – DISC – STEP Project

David Simpson – Owton Manor West

Catherine Wakeling – Hartlepool MIND

Chris Wise – West View Project

Dave Wise – West View Project

**COUNCILLOR KEVIN CRANNEY
CHAIR OF THE REGENERATION AND PLANNING SCRUTINY FORUM**

MARCH 2011

Contact Officer: Elaine Hind – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive’s Department – Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel:- 01429 523647
Email:- elaine.hind@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were consulted or referred to in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled ‘Scrutiny Investigation into Working Neighbourhoods Fund – Scoping Report’ presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum of 12 August 2010.
- (ii) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled ‘Scrutiny Investigation into the Working Neighbourhoods Fund – Setting the Scene – Covering Report’ Presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum of 9 September 2010.
- (iii) Report and Presentation of the Economic Development Manager entitled ‘Working Neighbourhood Fund’ presented to the Regeneration and Planning Service Scrutiny Forum of 9 September 2010.
- (iv) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled ‘Scrutiny Investigation into Working Neighbourhood Fund – Evidence from the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development – Covering Report’ presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum 14 October 2010.
- (v) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled ‘Scrutiny Investigation into the Working Neighbourhoods Fund – Evidence from Voluntary Organisations – Covering Report’ presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 14 October 2010.

- (vi) Report and Presentation of the Manager of the Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum of 14 October 2010.
- (vii) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into the Working Neighbourhoods Fund – Evidence from the Regeneration and Planning Department – Covering Report presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 25 November 2010.
- (viii) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation onto the Working Neighbourhoods Fund' – Evidence from WNF Providers – Covering Report presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 25 November 2010.
- (ix) Presentation of the Employment Development Officer entitled 'Working Neighbourhood Funding' delivered to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 25 November 2010.
- (x) Northumberland County Council WNF 2009 – 2011 Guidance for Applicants.
- (xi) Minutes of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum of 12 August 2010, 9 September 2010, 14 October 2010, 25 November and 20 January 2011.

Appendix A – Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (Key Economic Statistical Data)

The table below shows the latest key statistics for the Hartlepool Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRA) and is measured against the performance of Great Britain, regional, sub-regional and local rates. Unless otherwise stated, the data below relates to working-age adults and is sourced from the Office of National Statistics (ONS), mid-year estimates from 2009 with Tees Valley Unlimited providing an estimation for the neighbourhood figures.

Area	No of Working Age Pop.	% Employed Status	% Self Employed Status (2001 Census % of 16-74s)	% Worklessness	% Unemployed	% on IB	% on IS	% Children in Poverty (HMRC Data)
Burbank	795	42.8	2.6	57.2	14.5	22.6	21.0	61
Dyke House / Stranton / Grange	4350	57.4	3.1	42.6	11.1	14.2	19.3	50
Hartlepool NDC	6185	55.1	3.4	44.9	12.8	14.1	18.7	53
North Hartlepool	7420	58.2	3.2	41.8	8.5	14.7	17.3	41
Owton	4115	55.3	2.8	44.7	10.3	14.3	21.6	50
Rift House / Burn Valley	3190	60.0	2.7	40.0	9.5	13.4	13.4	35
Rossmere	3215	63.8	3.1	36.2	8.0	11.5	12.1	31
Throston	1115	61.9	2.6	38.1	6.8	15.9	11.2	20
Hartlepool	55200	66.8	4.3	33.2	7.1	10.0	11.3	30
Tees Valley	404200	68.3	4.8	31.7	6.3	8.0	10.0	26
Northeast	1601600	-	5.3	-	-	-	-	24
GB	33882200	74.0	8.3	26.0	4.1	6.5	7.3	22