

Talking up Hartlepool

I was delighted to attend the launch of the new Love Hartlepool campaign last week.

Love Hartlepool is aimed at showing how passionate residents and businesses are about our town.

The campaign will involve Hartlepool Borough Council and a host of other key local organisations plus employers and residents - all working together for the good of the town.

It's all about singing our town's praises and promoting our successes far and wide and countering those who would seek to run Hartlepool down and belittle our achievements.



It going to be a wide-ranging campaign – everything from keeping the town clean and boosting recycling to improving people's health and encouraging enterprise and promoting our local businesses.

Working together, I believe each and every one of us has a role to play to show how we all Love Hartlepool.

How you can help #LoveHartlepool

- Share your photos and what it is that you love about our town on social media using #LoveHartlepool
- Tell anyone you know who isn't from Hartlepool why it is such a great place
- When you are away on holiday, or travelling for business, talk to people about the excellent things happening here
- Got your own idea how you can help the campaign? Email lovehartlepool@hartlepool.gov.uk



#LoveHartlepool, or at https://twitter.com/Love_Hartlepool

£3m creative hub nears completion in Hartlepool

Excitement is really building in Hartlepool as our new £3m centre for the creative industries - called The BIS - nears completion.

Yesterday, I was lucky enough to visit the refurbished and enlarged Grade 2-listed former Post Office building in Whitby Street and get to look around.

It was fantastic to see the building – which has been funded by the Tees Valley Combined Authority – so near to completion.

The building is looking wonderful and will provide the perfect environment for business start-ups in the creative industries sector.

Ultimately, The BIS will mean more students will be able to stay in Hartlepool to launch businesses instead of going elsewhere.



High streets community clean up fund

We've just heard this week that we will be receiving an immediate cash boost of £16,000 to back our efforts in cleaning up Hartlepool's streets.

This comes ahead of 'National High Street Perfect Day' later this year, a community-led clean-up to make sure high streets look their best - something we will be linking to our #LoveHartlepool campaign.

The funding will also help us to support campaigns such as Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean Campaign which starts tomorrow and runs until 23 April.

An interactive map showing the date, times and locations of litter picks happening across the borough can be viewed at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/gbspringclean19

I would encourage you to take part and show the world that we all #LoveHartlepool.

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Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher Leader of Hartlepool Borough Council