

Hartbeat

December 2021



Christmas and New Year Opening Times 2021/22



Details correct at time of going to print. For any further updates – e.g. due to any future Covid restrictions – visit www.hartlepool.gov.uk/christmas-opening-times

Civic Centre

Main reception and telephones

Fri 24 Dec	Closed from 4.30pm
Tue 4 Jan	Reopen 8.30am (phone lines) and 9am (reception)

Register Office

Open on Wed 29, Thu 30 and Fri 31 Dec. For details of the services available visit www.hartlepool.gov.uk/registeroffice/christmas or call 01429 523337.

Aneurin Bevan House

Fri 24 Dec	Closed from 4.30pm until 29 Dec
Wed 29 Dec – Fri 31 Dec	Normal hours
Sat 1 Jan – Mon 3 Jan	Closed
Tue 4 Jan	Reopens 8.30am

The Children's Hub closes on Fri 24 Dec at 4.30pm and reopens on Wed 29 Dec at 8.30am. It closes again on Fri 31 Dec at 4.30pm and reopens on Tue 4 Jan at 8.30am. Tel - 01429 284284.

The Emergency Duty Team will operate at all other times including evenings, weekends and bank holidays – Tel - 01642 524552.

One Stop Shop - Windsor Offices

Mon 20 Dec – Thu 23 Dec	Normal hours
Fri 24 Dec	Appointments only
Sat 25 Dec – Sun 2 Jan	Closed
Tue 4 Jan	Normal hours
Tel – 01429 284043 / 523900 Facebook – Hartlepool Youth Services	

Youth Justice Service – Windsor Offices

Mon 20 Dec – Fri 24 Dec	Normal hours
Sat 25 Dec – Tue 28 Dec	Closed
Wed 29 Dec – Fri 31 Dec	Normal hours
Sat 1 Jan – Mon 3 Jan	Closed
Tue 4 Jan onwards	Normal hours
Tel - 01429 523986 / 401891	

Mill House Leisure Centre, Brierton Sports Centre and Headland Sports Hall

Fri 24 Dec	Mill House	6.30am – 4pm
	Brierton	7am – 4pm
	Headland	7am – 12 noon
Sat 25 - Tue 28 Dec	All closed	
Wed 29 Dec	Mill House	Normal hours
	Brierton	7am – 7pm
	Headland	7am – 12 noon 4pm – 8pm
Thu 30 Dec	Mill House	Normal hours
	Brierton	7am – 7pm
	Headland	7am – 8pm
Fri 31 Dec	Mill House	6.30am – 4pm
	Brierton	7am – 4pm
	Headland	7am – 12 noon
Sat 1 Jan	All closed	
Sun 2 Jan	Mill House	Normal hours
	Brierton	Normal hours
	Headland	Closed
Mon 3 Jan	All closed	

Hartlepool Art Gallery

The Art Gallery closes at 4pm on Fri 24 Dec and reopens on Tue 4 Jan.

Museum of Hartlepool

Fri 24 Dec – Sun 26 Dec	Closed
Mon 27 Dec onwards	Normal hours

Summerhill Visitors Centre

Fri 24 Dec - Mon 3 Jan	Closed
Tue 4 Jan onwards	Normal hours

* Please note the Summerhill site is permanently open.

Schools and Academies

Schools and academies will inform families of their closure dates over the Christmas period. Parents can also check school/academy term dates by visiting their child's school/academy website.

Household Waste Recycling Centre

Open Wednesday to Sunday 9am – 4pm (closed 12 noon – 1pm) except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Residents wanting to use the site MUST book an appointment in advance either online at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/hwrcbookings or by calling 01429 523333.

Bulky Waste Collection Service

The last day for the Bulky Waste Collection Service is Fri 24 Dec, restarting Tue 4 Jan. Tel: 01429 523333.

Collections over the Festive Period

There are **no changes** to refuse/recycling collections over the Christmas and New Year period - collections are **as normal**. Please ensure that your bin is placed out before 7.30am on your collection day, as normal.

Individual collection dates are online at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/findmybinday

Christmas Tree Collections

You can dispose of your real Christmas tree at the Household Waste Recycling Centre free of charge - Christmas trees will be accepted from Wed 29 Dec.

Residents must book an appointment to dispose of their tree at the HWRC.

Alternatively, we are offering a collection service for real trees from Tue 11 Jan. Residents wishing to use this service **must** book in for the collection to take place - book online at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/collectmytree or call 01429 523333. You must ensure that all decorations are removed prior to disposal.

Dog Warden Service

From Fri 24 Dec up to and including Mon 3 Jan collections of found/stray dogs will be carried out by the East Durham Animal Ambulance – please call 07792 453126 during the following times:

Fri 24 Dec	8.30am – 4pm
Sat 25 - Sun 26 Dec	Closed
Mon 27 Dec - Fri 31 Dec	8.30am – 4pm
Sat 1 Jan	Closed
Sun 2 Jan - Mon 3 Jan	8.30am – 4pm

Alternatively, members of the public can take the dog directly to the kennels at Stray Aid Rescue Centre, Cornforth Lane, Co Durham, DH6 4EJ. Call 0300 999 42 47 during the following times:

Fri 24 Dec	10am – 4pm
Sat 25 Dec – Sun 26 Dec	Closed
Mon 27 Dec – Fri 31 Dec	10am – 4pm
Sat 1 Jan	Closed

Dogs can also be reclaimed from the kennels during the above times. Normal service resumes on Sun 2 Jan.

Community Hubs

Coastal (Centre for Independent Living) – All services operating from the building finish Fri 24 Dec and reopen 8.30am Tue 4 Jan. Tel - 01429 242909 / 401736 (Day Service).

Central

Fri 24 Dec	10am – 2pm
Sat 25 Dec – Tue 28 Dec	Closed
Wed 29 Dec – Fri 31 Dec	10am – 2pm
Sat 1 Jan – Mon 3 Jan	Closed
Tue 4 Jan onwards	Normal hours
Tel – 01429 242909	

South

Fri 24 Dec	10am – 2pm
Sat 25 Dec – Mon 3 Jan	Closed
Tue 4 Jan onwards	Normal hours
Tel (South) – 01429 272631	

Support Hub

Fri 24 Dec	Normal hours
Sat 25 Dec – Tue 28 Dec	Closed
Wed 29 Dec – Fri 31 Dec	Normal hours
Sat 1 Jan – Mon 3 Jan	Closed
Tue 4 Jan	Normal hours
Tel – 01429 272905	

Branch Libraries

Seaton Library and Headland Library

Fri 24 Dec	10am – 2pm
Sat 25 Dec – Mon 3 Jan	Closed
Tue 4 Jan onwards	Normal hours
Tel (Seaton) – 01429 269808	
Tel (Headland) – 01429 268169	

Click and Collect Service – Mobile Library

Wed 22 Dec	Throston	10am – 12 noon
Finishes Wed 22 Dec. Service resumes Wed 5 Jan		

Home Library Service

Finishes on Fri 24 Dec. Resumes Tue 4 Jan. Tel – 07881 518166

Out of School Club (Oscars)

Closes at 6pm on Fri 17 Dec. Reopens on Tue 4 Jan at 11.15am

Cemeteries and Crematorium

Fri 24 Dec	Last cremation or interment at 2pm (Stranton Cemetery office closes 3pm)	
Sat 25 Dec – Tue 28 Dec	Stranton Cemetery office	closed
Wed 29 Dec – Thu 30 Dec	Normal hours	
Fri 31 Dec	Last cremation or interment at 2pm (Stranton Cemetery office closes 3pm)	
Sat 1 Jan – Mon 3 Jan	Stranton Cemetery office	closed
Tue 4 Jan onwards	Normal hours	

The Stranton Cemetery grounds and Book of Remembrance viewing room are open to visitors throughout the Christmas and New Year holidays between the hours of 8am and 4.30pm. In out of hours emergencies please call 01429 266522.

Out of Hours Emergencies

Emergency Duty Team and Children's Social Care – 01642 524552
Other services – 01429 266522

Welcome to the final edition of Hartbeat for 2021

As 2021 draws to a close and the season of goodwill is upon us, it is a good time to reflect on the past 12 months.

These continue to be particularly challenging times for us all as we continue to learn to live with COVID-19 and – as this edition of Hartbeat went to print – it had just been announced that booster jabs will be offered to everyone in England who is eligible by the end of January.

The Prime Minister said the government would be “throwing everything” at the campaign so everyone can get a third jab.

The rollout is being expanded in response to the emerging Omicron variant, which could be more infectious than Delta.

In England, face coverings must now also be worn in shops and shopping centres, in transport hubs and on public transport.

In other indoor settings where a face covering is not legally required, you should still continue to wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces where you may come into contact with other people you do not normally meet.

As well as wearing a face covering, continuing to wash and sanitise your hands regularly and allowing fresh air to circulate indoors will also help to reduce infections.

But the most important thing of all is that each and every one of us gets the vaccine when we are called to do so. Please turn to pages six and seven to find out more.

With Christmas fast approaching, it is lovely to see lights illuminating the

Borough and you can see some lovely photos overleaf.

We're absolutely delighted to confirm work has been completed on Elephant Rock, the new outdoor community events space on the Headland.

Located on the promenade next to the Heugh Battery Museum, it has been created by our restoration of a previous site built in the late 1800s to provide a place for civic, community and cultural events.

We look forward to officially launching Elephant Rock with a series of events in 2022, including plans to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Find out more about Elephant Rock on page eight.

We've recently launched a brand new online consultation platform to enable residents to give their views on a range of issues and help shape the future of Hartlepool. Your Say Our Future offers access to a number of digital consultation tools that people can use to get directly involved in decisions affecting them and you can find out more about this platform on page nine.

We want to close by again saying thank you for the significant sacrifices people across Hartlepool have made since the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic. We know it hasn't been easy and we are truly grateful for the significant steps people have taken to protect both themselves and the people they love.

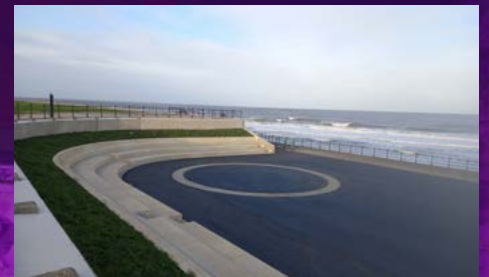
On behalf of everyone at Hartlepool Borough Council we would like to wish you a merry Christmas and a peaceful, prosperous and happy New Year.



Events | 4



Lighting up Hartlepool | 5



Elephant Rock | 8



Hartlepool Holiday Fun | 11



Green Flag Awards | 19

Cover: Hartlepool Art Gallery by Ash Foster Photography.

Hartbeat is available in Braille and articles can be translated into other languages. For information please call (01429) 523578 or email communications@hartlepool.gov.uk

To advertise in Hartbeat please call (01429) 523578 or email communications@hartlepool.gov.uk



Councillor Shane Moore
Leader of the Council



Denise McGuckin
Managing Director

Let us entertain you

There's lots to look forward to on the Hartlepool cultural scene in the coming months.

If you haven't got seats yet for Cinderella – this year's family Christmas pantomime at the Borough Hall – some tickets are still available.

The show runs until Christmas Eve and features a sparkling cast headed by CBBC's Joe Tasker from Saturday Morning Mash-Up.

To book visit www.hartlepoolboroughhall.com

The Borough Hall will be turning back the clock on Saturday 12th February when it presents The Monocle, a new production by Rendezvous-Dance inspired by the secret, notorious 1930s Parisian lesbian club Le Monocle and featuring six outstanding dancers.

A fun night out, the show will turn the theatre setting into a club where audiences can take part in an evening mixing dance and live music.

Much-loved tale Pinocchio comes to the Town Hall Theatre on Friday 1st April in a production for children by Northern Ballet. It's the perfect opportunity for little ones to enjoy live ballet, music and theatre.

Find out more about The Monocle and Pinocchio at culturehartlepool.com

Hartlepool Art Gallery will be hosting two new thought-provoking exhibitions.

Under The Vapour Trails by award-winning author and illustrator Simon Bartram features paintings and drawings of men who find their identities in the clothes they wear, the haircuts they sport and the football teams they follow.

Simon looks beyond the haircuts and hoodies to explore who they really are and what it means to live in the North East.

In The Female Gaze: Revisited, artist-photographer Alice Hawkins presents an extraordinary, panoramic portrait of women around the world, examining changing perceptions of femininity, fashion and gender over the past two decades.

Alice often captures the theatrical, the outrageous or the larger-than-life, and the exhibition includes portraits of female musicians including Beth Ditto and Paloma Faith.

Both exhibitions run from Saturday 29th January to Saturday 23rd April and entry is free. Visit www.hartlepoolartgallery.com for details.



Cinderella



The Monocle



Pinocchio



The Female Gaze: Revisited

Lighting up Hartlepool

Hartlepool was bathed in light as the town marked two of the most important events in its calendar.

The Victory Square, Redheugh Gardens and Seaton Carew war memorials glowed poppy red in a poignant tribute on the evening of Armistice Day.

Residents came together again to watch Hartlepool Art Gallery illuminated to music in a spectacular light show as part of the fun-packed Christmas Light Switch-On celebrations in Church Square.

After another year overshadowed by Covid, these two very memorable events were much appreciated by local people of all ages.



COVID-19: “We must keep on protecting each other”

Temporary and precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the new COVID-19 Omicron variant in the UK are now in force.

Face coverings are again compulsory in shops and other settings such as banks, post offices and hairdressers, as well as on public transport unless individuals are exempt from doing so.

All travellers arriving into the country are also required to take a PCR test on

or before day two and self-isolate until they have received a negative test result. These PCR tests can be purchased from private providers. Free NHS tests are not valid for this purpose.

Craig Blundred, the Council's Director of Public Health, says now isn't the time to drop our guard: “We know the vaccination programme is working to help prevent serious disease and reduce deaths and it is absolutely vital eligible people across Hartlepool get the jobs they are entitled to.

“The evidence is also absolutely clear that wearing face coverings will still help to protect you and continuing to wash and sanitise your hands regularly and allowing fresh air to circulate indoors will also help to reduce infections.”



Protect yourself and others – get your jabs

It is important to get all of the vaccines for which you are eligible - they reduce your risk of getting seriously ill or dying from COVID-19, cut your chances of catching or spreading it and help to protect you against variants.

Following the emergence of the new Omicron variant, the Government intends to offer all eligible adults a booster jab by the end of January, so please come forward as soon as it is your turn.

Walk-in vaccination clinics are currently scheduled to be held on December 15th, 22nd and 29th in Mill House Leisure Centre sports hall. A clinic will also take place on December 18th, but as Hartbeat went to print the venue was still to be confirmed.

Walk-in clinics will then take place every Wednesday and Saturday in Mill House Leisure Centre sports hall from January 5th until March 30th 2022.

In Hartlepool, there is current concern over the low take-up of vaccines by the 12-15-year-old age group.

Most children will be given their vaccine at school. Parents or guardians will get a letter or email asking them to give consent for their child to be vaccinated. **Failure to provide consent means your child will not be vaccinated.**

There is also concern over vaccine take-up amongst pregnant women. As a result, special drop-in vaccination sessions for mums-to-be attended by midwives from the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust have been taking place at walk-in vaccination clinics in the town. The next one will take place from 10am-2pm at the clinic planned for December 22nd in Mill House Leisure Centre sports hall.

For full details of walk-in vaccination clinics in Hartlepool keep an eye on the Council's social media or check the news section at www.hartlepool.gov.uk



Your vaccine questions answered

Will it affect my fertility?

The Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists and the Royal College of Midwives have both clearly stated that there is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines affect fertility. There's no evidence that vaccines have any effect on the chances of becoming pregnant and there's no need to avoid pregnancy after being vaccinated

Can I get vaccinated if I'm pregnant or breastfeeding?

The vaccines offer pregnant women the best protection against COVID-19 which can be serious in later pregnancy. You can have a vaccine if you are breastfeeding. The vaccine can't give you or your baby COVID-19.

For more questions and answers visit

www.hartlepool.gov.uk/vaccine-questions-answered

Getting tested

Testing remains a very important tool in the fight against COVID-19. Regular testing helps identify virus variants and stops individual cases from becoming outbreaks.

If you have COVID-19 symptoms

Self-isolate and visit www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call **119** to arrange a free PCR test.

You can use the website to either:

- Book a free test at the Hartlepool PCR testing centre at the Sandy Car Park (former coach park) at Seaton Carew TS25 1DD.
- or
- Get a free PCR home testing kit – which is very easy to use – delivered directly to your door.

If you DO NOT have COVID-19 symptoms

If you have no symptoms and are not eligible for a PCR test for other reasons, visit www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test to find details of local testing in Hartlepool or to order a rapid lateral flow test home testing kit to be sent to your home.

When to take a rapid lateral flow test

You should take a rapid lateral flow test:

- If you will be in a higher risk situation that day
- Before you visit people who are at higher risk of severe illness if they get COVID-19 – visit www.nhs.uk for more details

You are at higher risk of catching or passing on COVID-19 when:

- in crowded and enclosed spaces
- there is limited fresh air

It's very important that you report rapid lateral flow test results the same day you or someone in your household takes the test, no matter what the result is.

Find out how to report your test result and what it means at www.nhs.uk

HM Government

NHS

BOOST YOUR IMMUNITY THIS WINTER

WITH THE FLU VACCINE + COVID-19 BOOSTER

Flu and COVID-19 can both be life-threatening and spread more easily in winter.

Get vaccinated. Get boosted. Get protected.
nhs.uk/wintervaccinations



FRESH AIR



TESTING



FACE COVERINGS



APP



HANDWASHING



Work completed on Elephant Rock

Work has been completed on Elephant Rock, the new outdoor community events space on the Headland.

Located on the promenade next to the Heugh Battery Museum, it has been created by Hartlepool Borough Council's restoration of a previous site built in the late 1800s to provide a place for civic, community and cultural events.

Its name is a nod to local history, as the original site also served as a viewing platform for the historic Elephant Rock which stood a short distance offshore. Most of this elephant-shaped limestone rock collapsed into the sea following a storm in 1891.

The new venue will host a range of open air performances and events in the spring and summer seasons, starting next year.

It will also be available for commercial hire and use by community groups for events and activities.

Councillor Shane Moore, Leader of Hartlepool Borough Council and a Headland and Harbour Ward councillor, said: "I'm delighted that the restoration is now complete and the site has undergone an amazing transformation!

"As Leader of the Council and a Headlander, I'm really proud of what has been achieved here.

"It is going to be a real community asset, benefitting people on the Headland, the wider town and even further afield."

Hartlepool-based Seymour Civil Engineering were the Principal Contractor on the restoration project which was designed by the Council's own in-house teams.



One of the plaques built into the rear retaining wall

Piling works have been carried out to stabilise the site and a new rear retaining wall built. Concrete plaques reflecting the history of the Headland have been built into the wall. The original terracing has also been removed and replaced with new tiered concrete seating. Other works include the creation of a feature paved area and landscaping of parts of the site.

Councillor Moore added: "I'd like to put on record my thanks for the work Seymours have done."





YOUR SAY OUR FUTURE



Council launches new digital consultation platform

A new online consultation platform has been launched by Hartlepool Borough Council to enable residents to give their views on a range of issues and help shape the future of the town.

Your Say Our Future offers access to a number of digital consultation tools that people can use to get directly involved in decisions affecting them.

By registering, they can create a personal account, and this allows them to state which consultation topics they are most interested in and receive updates and newsletters.

Councillor Shane Moore, Leader of the Council, said: "The Council has a long-standing commitment to listen to local people and take their views into account when making decisions.

"Your Say Our Future takes that to a whole new level - making it easier for people to get involved in the decision-making process in a way and at a time that suits them."

Tools on the new platform vary depending on the consultation topic but can include:

- Forum – share experiences, ask questions and have conversations.
- Places (map tool) – leave comments, answer surveys, and post images to pins on a map.
- Ideas – create "post it notes" to add ideas to a virtual ideas board, and like and comment on other people's ideas.
- Stories – share stories and experiences (e.g. of an event or use of a service).
- Guestbook – leave a comment.
- Questions – an opportunity to ask questions.
- News feed – see updates and news about projects you are interested in.
- Surveys.
- Quick polls – see results in real time.

Current consultations include:

- **Review of domestic abuse support services – closes 3rd January 2022** (see page 20 for more information).
- **The Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Survey – closes 31st January 2022.**
- **Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment – closes 24th December 2021** (see page 21 for more information).
- **Hartlepool Town Deal – on-going.**

Coming next year: Consultations on the Council's Community Hubs and a range of regeneration projects across the town.

Originally set up as an emergency response to the pandemic to provide a Covid-secure way of consulting with residents and stakeholders, Your Say Our Future will, going forward, sit alongside more traditional face-to-face methods of engagement.

Councillor Moore added: "This is a chance to have your say and respond to issues that matter most to you. We'd love to hear from you!"

Register at: yoursay.hartlepool.gov.uk

Tackling financial hardship

Councillors in Hartlepool have announced how a £993,000 Government grant to provide support to households facing financial hardship will be distributed.

The money has been awarded to Hartlepool Borough Council from the national Household Support Fund.

Members of the authority's Finance and Policy Committee agreed that a large part of the money - £640,000 – should be used to provide pre-loaded supermarket cards to the families of some 8,000 children aged 2-19 who meet the qualifying criteria for free school meals. This will ensure that the Government's requirement that at least 50% of the grant is spent on children is met.

Two payments of £40 are to be made to qualifying families, one in mid-December and another in early February, and they will be able to redeem the cards against their shopping bills.

A number of other support measures are also being funded (see full list below). For more information visit www.hartlepool.gov.uk/household-support-fund

Councillor Shane Moore, Leader of the Council and Chair of the Finance and Policy Committee, said: "Hopefully, the full package of proposals will go some way to easing the hardship that many hard-pressed local families are facing as the cost of living sky rockets.

"A lot of work has been carried out by council officers in a very short space to put this package of support together and I'd like to thank them for their efforts.

"I'd also like to express my gratitude to those partner organisations that have agreed to work with us to provide vital help to local residents. Their support really is appreciated."

Other measures include:

- Hartlepool Local Welfare Support Scheme, £80,000 - to provide support for food, fuel and household goods. Awards will be based on personal circumstances and will not be means-tested.
- Citizens Advice Bureau and Advice at Hart, £40,000 each – for the provision of fuel vouchers.
- Hartlepool Borough Council's Housing Advice Team, £60,000 – to provide assistance with exceptional housing costs and support those at risk of eviction due to housing and council tax arrears as a result of COVID-19.
- Hartlepool Food Bank and The Bread and Butter Thing, £10,000 each - to provide food parcels/bags of shopping.
- Support for households, who do not qualify for the supermarket cards, but are in receipt of benefit (Local Council Tax Support, Universal Credit or Housing Benefit), £50,000 – an award of £60 for the purchase of food or other essential household costs.
- Anglian Water, £15,000 – to provide assistance to households in debt and water poverty through the Anglian Water Assistance Fund.



Primary school place applications open

Applications for school places for children due to start primary school in Hartlepool next September are now being taken.

The closing date for all applications - either online or paper - is **January 15th 2022**.

Letters providing more information were sent to parents via their child's nursery school, but where a child does not attend a private or mainstream nursery (or if a letter was not received by the end of November) then parents need to register their child with Hartlepool Borough Council's School Admissions Team at the Hartlepool Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) in Brierton Lane. They can contact the team by telephoning (01429) 523765 or emailing admissionsteam@hartlepool.gov.uk

The team is also able to provide more information about the school admissions process.

The easiest way to apply for a school place is online at: www.hartlepool.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Alternatively, parents can fill in a paper form that is available from all primary schools, while forms can also be requested from the School Admissions Team.

Parents will learn the outcome of their applications on **April 19 2022** (the next working date following 16th April 2022) – and any appeals will be heard during **June/July 2022**.



It's going to be a cracking Christmas!

There are lots of fantastic, fun activities for children and young people in Hartlepool aged 4 to 16 to look forward to over the school Christmas holidays.

An ice rink, festive crafts, Christmas parties, swimming, a forest school, sports, music, cooking, a roller disco, creative technology sessions using 3D printers and laser cutting, yoga and Pokemon-themed maths sessions are just some of what's in store, and most of the activities are free!

There'll be plenty to keep children and young people entertained and help them discover new hobbies and skills, make new friends and build their confidence, plus they'll get tasty meals into the bargain.

It's all part of Hartlepool Holiday Fun – a project run by Hartlepool Borough Council in partnership with different organisations across the town and funded by the Department for Education – providing activities for children and young people over the main school holidays throughout the year.

Don't miss out! Find out more and book your places now at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/hartlepool-holiday-fun



Children enjoying the Hartlepool Holiday Fun summer programme

BALANCING THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2022-2025

Hartlepool Borough Council is facing a significant budget deficit over the next three years.

As part of a Transformation and Savings Plan that aims to take a phased approach to tackling the deficit, Council Tax and the Adult Social Care Precept (which was introduced in 2016/17) are to be increased in line with national referendum limits.

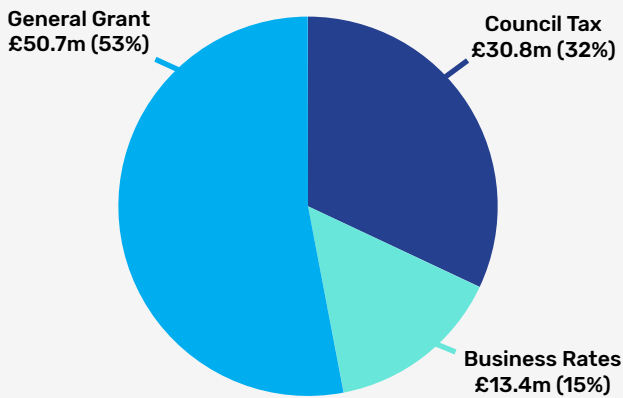
Since 2013/14, national funding changes mean more of the money needed to pay for council services has had to come from

Council Tax and the Adult Social Care Precept, with less being received in direct Government grant.

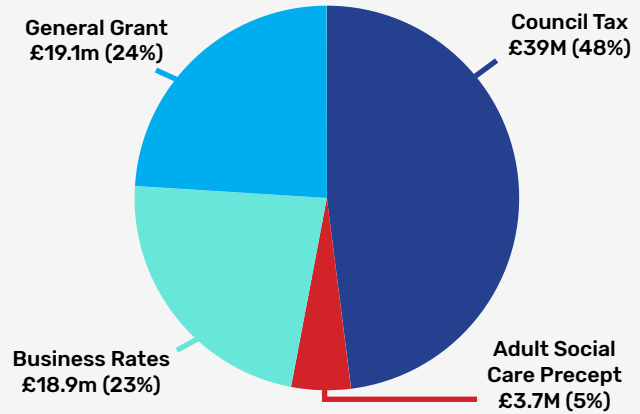
As a result, total funding has reduced significantly, whilst we have also had to fund inflation and increased demands on services.

Councillor Shane Moore, Leader of the Council, says the authority has been left with no choice but to take the incredibly difficult decision to increase Council Tax as a result of this change in Government policy.

Council income 2013/14 - £94.9m



Council income 2021/22 - £80.7m



How each £1 of Council Tax is currently spent



Adult Social Services - 33p



Children's Services - 24p



Recreation, Libraries and Tourism - 4p



Other Services - 14p



Refuse collection and disposal - 5p



Loan repayments - 3p



Police - 13p



Cleveland Fire Authority - 4p

Does Council Tax fund regeneration?

It is important to note that major regeneration schemes to improve Hartlepool are **NOT** funded using Council Tax. In recent years, Hartlepool has received millions of pounds worth of external funding for a range of development schemes. If we hadn't been successful in bidding for this money, it would have gone elsewhere.

What tax do we pay?

There are other taxes which receive far less attention than Council Tax. For example, we all buy goods on a daily basis without thinking about the rate of Value Added Tax (VAT). The standard rate of VAT for most goods and services is 20% which goes directly to the Government. Similarly, around 65% of the price we pay for fuel is made up of Fuel Duty and VAT – again, something that few of us think about when filling up our vehicles.

Setting the 2022/23 budget

The Council's reserves have been used over a number of years to support the budget and this continues to be the case.

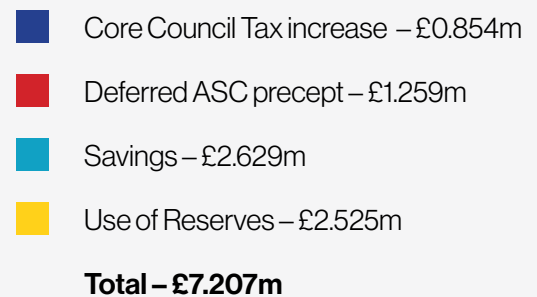
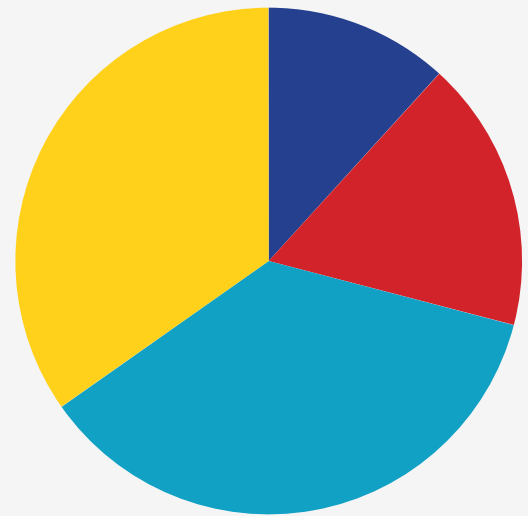
However, reserves are now relatively low, so the amount of money available is limited. Therefore, the only way we can protect local services is by increasing Council Tax and the Adult Social Care Precept.

Full Council has agreed to a 1.9% increase in Council Tax, subject to confirmation of a 2% referendum limit, and a 3% increase in the Adult Social Care Precept for 2022/23. (The precept was deferred from 2021/22 as councils had flexibility to implement it either this year or next. Most implemented the precept increase in the current year as average Council Tax increased nationally by 4.4%, but Hartlepool councillors opted for a freeze).

The budget for 2022/23 will be balanced from a combination of sources as detailed in the chart opposite.

The proposed increases in Council Tax and the Adult Social Care Precept will generate recurring income that will reduce the three-year deficit from £11.4m to £7.5m.

Without these increases, the Council would have no alternative but to address more of the deficit by cutting services.



How does Hartlepool's Council Tax compare to other areas?

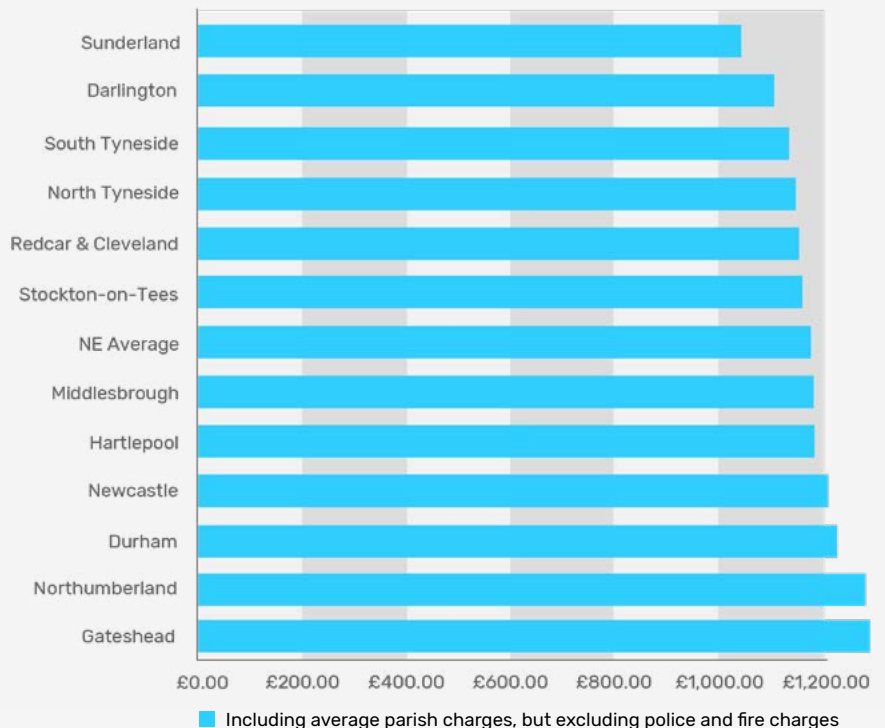
Comparisons between levels of Council Tax in different local authority areas are often made using Band D bills.

However for North East councils, including Hartlepool, we feel this is unfair as the number of Band D properties is relatively low. In Hartlepool, 70% of properties are in Bands A and B, compared to the national average of 43%.

A fairer comparison is, we believe, achieved by using Band A bills.

The graph opposite shows how the current Band A charge of £1,167 in Hartlepool compares with those in other North-East local authority areas where charges range from £1,039 to £1,283.

North East Band A Council Tax 2021/22



Communities in Hartlepool need your help

Hartlepool's tradition of people working together to support each other and help local communities to thrive is stepping up another gear.

If you live in the Borough, have some time to spare and are excited about helping people, Tracy Harvey, the recently-appointed Volunteer Coordinator at Hartlepool Borough Council's Community Hubs, would like to hear from you.

Tracy, who is based at Community Hub Central in York Road, is looking for volunteers of all ages for a variety of unpaid roles.

There are lots of interesting and rewarding opportunities on offer at the Community Hubs and further afield, such as helping people gain digital skills, running a poetry or reading group, working in a coffee bar or community kitchen, outdoor environmental work or helping with Community Hub Central's new Fab Lab technology suite or Code Club, to name but a few.

"We'd love to hear from anyone who has a bit of time on their hands and who may not have considered volunteering before but is keen to help others and get more involved in our Hubs and the wider community," says Tracy.

"They'll be joining a great team and as well as the satisfaction of helping others, they'll make new friends and broaden their own skills and experience as well.

"We can provide training and who knows - we might even be helping someone gain the experience they need to find their ideal job."



Tracy Harvey

To find out more call Tracy on 01429 806906 or 07977 347208 or email community.volunteering@hartlepool.gov.uk

Change a life from your own home as a Shared Lives provider

If you have a spare room and could care for an adult who needs extra support within your own home then why not consider becoming a provider for Hartlepool Shared Lives.

Hartlepool Shared Lives service is where people come forward to offer their home and a 'family' to vulnerable adults who need care and support, allowing them to live safe, healthy and independent lives in the community. It is similar to being a foster carer but instead of looking after children or young people it involves caring for an adult in your own home. It is an alternative to care homes and day centres and helps people live a more fulfilling and thriving life.

You could support someone for as little or as long as you like, whether it's for an overnight stay, a couple of nights, months, or even years. This is a flexible role to suit your lifestyle and availability.

Benefit from:

- Flexible working from your home
- Generous monthly pay allowance
- Training and ongoing support from the moment you express your interest in joining the service
- Inspiring and having a positive impact on someone's life

We invite and encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to become a Shared Lives provider. Formal qualifications or experience are not required and the only criteria is that you have a spare room and a willingness to share your life with others.

If you are interested in being a Shared Lives provider the team would love to hear from you. Express your interest with our registered manager by emailing alison.urwin@durham.gov.uk or calling 07786027139.

To find out more visit

www.hartlepool.gov.uk/hartlepool-shared-lives



HARTLEPOOL COMMUNITY HUBS

Hartlepool Support Hub

If you or someone you know needs advice or support, Hartlepool Support Hub is still here to help you stay safe, stay well and stay connected.

The Support Hub offers:

- Lots of information to help you stay safe and well
- Support to help you meet new people and discover activities across the town
- Advice to help you enjoy a healthier lifestyle, such as exercising more and getting out and exploring Hartlepool's open spaces and facilities

Our team continues to support anyone who is isolating due to COVID-19 with useful information, advice and guidance

You can contact the Support Hub by:

Telephone: 01429 272905 (8.30am – 5.30pm Mondays to Fridays).

Email: helping@hartlepool.gov.uk (Please provide your contact details and we will get back to you).

We have an out of hours service operating to support those people specifically isolating due to Covid-19 - please call the number above.

Hartlepool Community Hubs

Looking for somewhere to visit between Christmas and New Year?

Call in to Community Hub Central in York Road for a hot drink, a catch-up or a quiet place to read.



All hot drinks from our café are complimentary on 29th, 30th and 31st December!

Visit www.HartlepoolNow.co.uk and the **Hartlepool Community Hubs Facebook page** for frequent updates on all upcoming events and activities.

Please check the list on page two of Hartlepool Borough Council venues for opening and closing times.

*Happy Christmas and New Year from
The Hartlepool Community Hubs
and Wellbeing Team*

Full details of the Hubs' Christmas and New Year opening times are on page two

Councillors' details and ward surgeries

For details of your local Hartlepool Borough Councillors, including information on their appointments to committees and how to get in touch with them, visit www.hartlepool.gov.uk and click on the 'Councillors' button on the home page.

You can also get the very latest details on Councillors' upcoming ward surgeries at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/councillors-ward-surgeries

Alternatively, please call the Council on 01429 523702 or 523704.



Don't become Christmas lunch for a loan shark

Christmas can be a difficult time for some families and added pressures may tempt some people into borrowing money from a loan shark.

People are being urged to watch out for the warning signs of loan sharks and report it if they are approached by one.

A loan shark might:

- Offer little or no paperwork on a loan, such as a credit agreement or record of payments.
- Refuse to give borrowers information, such as the interest rate or how much you owe.
- Take items as security, such as passports, bank cards and driving licence.
- Increase the debt or add additional charges at any time.
- Refuse to allow you to settle your debt.
- Get nasty – they might use intimidation, threats or violence.

If you're in the grip of a loan shark and need help over Christmas and the New Year, contact the England Illegal Money Lending Team straight away any time of day or night – you can talk to them in complete confidence and they will help.

Visit www.stoploansharks.co.uk or call **0300 555 2222**

Safeguarding – it's everyone's business

Residents of Hartlepool are being urged to help tackle adult abuse by learning to recognise the signs and reporting concerns.

Hartlepool Borough Council works closely with Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board - the statutory body responsible for setting the strategic direction for adult safeguarding across Teesside.

Councillor Tim Fleming, Chair of the Council's Adult and Community Based Services Committee, said: "Safeguarding is about protecting any adult's right to live in safety - free from abuse and neglect. It is also important to remember that safeguarding applies to adults of all ages."

During National Safeguarding Adults Week recently, the Council was kindly granted the free use of a retail unit at Middleton Grange Shopping Centre where information relating to adult safeguarding was displayed.

Councillor Fleming added: "Everyone has a role to play in safeguarding and we aim to give people the information they need to understand when a vulnerable adult is at risk and requires help. It can sometimes simply be a case of looking out for relatives, friends and neighbours."

More information about adult safeguarding and the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board is available at www.tsab.org.uk

The Council's dedicated Hartlepool Now website also provides a comprehensive guide to services for adults at www.hartlepoolnow.co.uk

To report a concern call 01429 523390 (during normal office hours), 01642 524552 (on evenings and weekends) or email iSPA@hartlepool.gov.uk

Join us for Hartlepool Restaurant Week

Restaurants, cafes and pubs in Hartlepool are being invited to take part in a special Hartlepool Restaurant Week at the end of January to promote and celebrate the town's eateries.

Businesses wanting to take part will be required to develop a specific Restaurant Week menu or special offers within their existing menu at the set prices of either £5, £10, £15 or £20. Businesses can choose the price points which suit them.

These menus and offers will then be promoted in advance through a dedicated Hartlepool Restaurant Week web page and marketing campaign which will be launched at the start of the New Year.

The initiative – which is led by Hartlepool Borough Council's Economic Growth Team – is absolutely free for Hartlepool eateries to take part in.

Councillor Paddy Brown, Chair of the Council's Economic Growth and Regeneration Committee, said: "Following what has been a challenging couple of years for the hospitality industry, Hartlepool Restaurant Week is the perfect opportunity to showcase the town's growing foodie scene and for customers to show their support by visiting their favourite eateries or trying somewhere new.

"We have some absolutely fantastic restaurants, cafes and pubs in Hartlepool and I very much hope they will all take part."



Any venue interested in being involved in Hartlepool Restaurant Week should email tourism@hartlepool.gov.uk

shopHartlepool & christmas

The best Christmas Window
will be crowned by you!

Visit www.shophartlepool.com/christmas
to vote for which Shop Hartlepool business has gone all out to
spread Christmas cheer with their shop window display!
Voting closes 22nd December.



@lovehartlepool



@Love_Hartlepool

Making your home greener

Eligible residents across the Borough can now benefit from up to £10,000 of energy efficiency measures through funding provided by the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme.

Hartlepool Borough Council is working with E.ON to deliver the scheme so that eligible households can benefit from **free** energy efficiency upgrades. Improvements could include a whole host of heating and insulation measures such as solar panels, insulation and air source heat pumps.

If your home has an EPC energy efficiency rating of D, E, F or G and your household income is less than £30,000 then you may qualify for the grant.

If you're eligible, one of E.ON's assessors will visit and survey your home to determine the best energy efficiency measures or mix of measures for your home. They will then discuss the options with you and explain more about the measures that could be installed on your property.

Councillor Cameron Stokell, Chair of Hartlepool Borough Council's Neighbourhood Services Committee, said: "This a fantastic opportunity for our residents. The grant can greatly assist our residents in improving the warmth and comfort of their homes and reducing their energy bills and fuel poverty. Don't miss out on this opportunity, check if you qualify now."

For more information and to find out if you qualify visit:
www.hartlepool.gov.uk/green-homes-grant



Hartlepool wins top regional energy award

Hartlepool Borough Council won 'Council of the Year' at the North East Regional Energy Efficiency Awards for 2021 for the work that has been undertaken to tackle fuel poverty in Hartlepool and highlight the financial and carbon savings that have been achieved.

The nomination from Pacifica Group (0800Repair) was in relation to the work being carried out using ECO (Energy Company Obligation) funding which has been used to improve energy efficiency in Hartlepool.

Through working with the Council over the last 12 months, Pacifica Group (0800Repair) along with three other installers have been able to do the following work:

- 286 inefficient or broken gas boilers replaced
- 158 cavity wall insulations
- 15 loft insulations
- 1 party wall insulation
- 54 underfloor insulations
- 1 full central heating
- 52 heating controls

These measures improved 336 homes, with a number of households receiving more than one of the above measures. It is estimated that these measures represent lifetime savings to residents of £3,942,562.

Councillor Cameron Stokell, Chair of Hartlepool Borough Council's Neighbourhood Services Committee, said: "The work being carried out is valuable to our most vulnerable residents, to help make their homes warmer and more energy efficient, saving them money on their utility bills in the process. Every single household benefiting from one of the home insulation improvements counts as another small step towards our efforts to combat fuel poverty in Hartlepool and helps reduce carbon emissions at the same time."

To found out more visit:
www.hartlepool.gov.uk/energy-efficiency



Parks retain prestigious Green Flags

Two parks in Hartlepool have again been recognised as open spaces meeting the highest standards.

Summerhill Country Park and Ward Jackson Park have retained their Green Flags, having held them since 2008.

Managed by Keep Britain Tidy, the award scheme recognises well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for their management.



Horticulture staff from Hartlepool Borough Council Environmental Services in Ward Jackson Park.

Councillor Tim Fleming, Chair of Hartlepool Borough Council's Adult and Community Based Services Committee, said: "Securing a Green Flag Award and retaining it in successive years requires a real team effort. Council staff work closely with a range of volunteers – the Friends of Ward Jackson Park, the Friends of Hartlepool's Wild Green Spaces and Summerhill's own team of volunteers – and I'd like to congratulate everyone."

Cameron Stokell, Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Committee, added: "We have really learnt to appreciate our parks and green spaces during the pandemic and they have played a vital role as places where people can relax, exercise and meet friends and family safely. My thanks go to all Council staff and volunteers who work so hard to keep them in first rate condition."

Visitors to parks are asked to support the Council and volunteer groups by disposing of litter responsibly and cleaning up after their dogs.

More information about Hartlepool's parks and open spaces can be found at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/parks People can also provide feedback, make suggestions and report problems at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/parksreport

Council working to clear sea buckthorn scrub

Work is underway to clear sea buckthorn scrub at Seaton Carew's sand dunes and at Seaton Carew Golf Course, with the cut material being disposed of by burning. The work will extend onto the land adjacent to the golf course which is owned by the Council.

The area, including land owned by Seaton Carew Golf Club and Hartlepool Borough Council, is part of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SSSI. As landowners they have a duty to manage the land to preserve its special interest features and Natural England, who have ultimate responsibility, has identified encroachment of invasive sea buckthorn scrub as a significant threat to the biodiversity of the sand dune habitats.

Sea buckthorn was planted at the site in the early part of the 20th century and has since become a threat to the more diverse grassland and other vegetation typical of dune habitats, and the species these support.

Funding has been secured through the Countryside Stewardship scheme by both Hartlepool Borough Council and Seaton Carew Golf Course to undertake the management of the scrub. The method being used to clear the scrub has been agreed with Natural England and has been timed to avoid the bird nesting season.

Tom Stephenson, Hartlepool Borough Council's Ecologist, said: "We want to reassure residents that while the clearance appears destructive, it is intended to reverse encroachment of scrub into the dunes and is solely for the benefit of biodiversity. How we carry out the work has been agreed with Natural England and we time the work to avoid the bird nesting season. Similarly, the burning of cut material is being timed to coincide with the prevailing south westerly wind so that smoke is carried out to sea."



Make it a day to learn and remember

People of all ages are invited to share in a moving day-long programme of online events on Thursday 27th January to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

The programme has been organised by Stand Together – a group of young people in Hartlepool aged 13-16 who promote solidarity, tolerance and the need to value difference and diversity – with support from Hartlepool Youth Service.

The theme this year is 'One Day', which has many different interpretations including encouraging people to pick one day from history during a period of genocide and learn about what happened on that day, and hoping that there may be one day in the future when there will be no genocide.

Throughout the day on Facebook at www.facebook.com/hartlepoolyouthservices the young people will be sharing stories, short films and work created by local primary schools and youth groups.

As part of their research the young people visited the National Holocaust Centre and took part in a Zoom meeting with Steven Frank, who was five when the Nazis occupied Amsterdam where he was born and was one of only 93 children who survived the Theresienstadt camp out of 15,000 children who were sent there.

Stand Together will also be publishing online a Holocaust Memorial Day booklet featuring their research and reflections as well as traditional recipes from countries affected by genocide.

They are inviting primary schools to get involved by creating artwork inspired by traditional art from Cambodia, Bosnia, Darfur, Rwanda and Jewish culture and reflecting on what the theme 'One Day' means to them.

For more information about the event contact Rachael Garlick on rachael.garlick@hartlepool.gov.uk or 01429 273741



Domestic abuse support – have your say

A review of domestic abuse support services in Hartlepool is being carried out to ensure that the needs of local residents are being met.

Hartlepool Borough Council is seeking the views of partner organisations, service providers and service users to help it assess the effectiveness of current provision.

Members of the public can make their views known via the authority's Your Say Our Future digital consultation and engagement platform at yoursay.hartlepool.gov.uk/dva-21

Sally Robinson, the Council's Director of Children's Services and Joint Commissioning and Chair of the Hartlepool Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, said: "If you have experienced domestic abuse we would like to hear from you.

"Whether the abuse happened recently or in the past you can help us understand if services provided are helping, what else we could or should be doing, or if there are long-standing issues that we need to prioritise.

"We would also like to hear from you even if you have not used our services as this will help us to understand where we are not meeting the needs of the community.

"We recognise that this is a sensitive subject and that some people who take part in the consultation may be currently in an abusive relationship. As such, we are providing two different ways to take part in the review."

- By completing a survey. You will not be asked to provide any personal details and your responses will not be visible on the site.
- By adding an idea or comment on one of the ideas boards offered by the site. You will be asked to provide a screen name and email address. Your screen name and comment will be visible to other participants, but your email address will not be shown.

The consultation will remain open until January 3rd 2022.

Have your say on pharmacy services

Residents in Hartlepool are being urged to complete a short survey to help shape the future of pharmacy services in the town.

The survey, which runs until Friday 24th December, allows residents to voice their opinions and share their experiences of accessing pharmacy services in Hartlepool.

The information from the survey will inform the review of the Health and Wellbeing Board's Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment, which will assess what services are currently available, how easily they are accessed and identify unmet needs.

Craig Blundred, Hartlepool Borough Council's Director of Public Health, said: "Pharmacies within communities have a major role to play in helping to maintain and improve people's health and prevent ill health, and we are committed to ensuring that residents have access to the best pharmacy services available.

"To do this, we need to build a clear picture of how effective our town's pharmacy services are by listening to people who have used them first hand.

"So I would encourage everyone in Hartlepool who has used pharmacy services or is likely to use them in the future to please take a few minutes to complete this survey. Your views are vital."

People can complete the questionnaire at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/pharmacy-services.

For more information or to request a paper copy of the survey, please contact Joan Stevens, Statutory Scrutiny Manager, on joan.stevens@hartlepool.gov.uk or 01429 284142.



Supporting healthier lifestyles

Hartlepool Borough Council has joined forces with Hartlepool United FC and EFL Trust to launch a new initiative to help local residents lose weight, get fitter and become more active.

FIT POOLIES, which is open to men aged 35-65, will launch on January 17th.

The 12-week programme will combine classroom sessions on nutrition and lifestyle changes with physical activity.

To be eligible, you must have a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 28+ and have a waist measurement of 38 inches.

For more information go to www.efltrust.com/fitfans

The initiative follows the launch earlier this year of a similar partnership between the Council and WW (formerly Weight Watchers UK) and Slimming World.

Hundreds of people have since signed up for 12 weeks of free weight management support. The initiative runs until the end of June 2022, so there is still time to join.

Participants must be aged 16 or over and either live or work in the town, or be registered with a Hartlepool GP practice. They must have a BMI higher than 27 (25 for South Asian people) and will not have been members of WW or Slimming World in the last 3 months.

Find out more at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/free-weight-management-offer



Household Waste Recycling Centre

If you're planning to visit our Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC), it is important to remember you are now required to pre-book a slot.

Whilst the booking system was brought in to help manage the demand on the site in response to social distancing and revised workplace regulations, it has provided many benefits for residents.

These include:

- Many same day appointments available
- 450 visits per day – compared to around 400 pre-Covid
- Average satisfaction rating of 4.55 stars out of 5 based on the comments of more than 8,000 visitors
- Reduced traffic queueing on Burn Road
- Improvements to local air quality as queuing eases
- Site maintenance can be planned in accordance with customer demand
- Improved communication with customers

To book an appointment visit www.hartlepool.gov.uk/hwrcbookings or call 01429 523333.

If you're waiting to book an appointment for your visit, please hold on to your waste. There is never any justification for fly-tipping. It is a criminal and anti-social offence that can result in prosecution. Report a fly-tipper at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/fly-tipping or call our Fly Tip Off Hotline on (01429) 523333. Please provide as much information as possible.

Waste Removal Service

We have alternative ways you can dispose of your household waste such as our Waste Removal Service. We can collect your household items from the boundary of your property for a fee of £20 for up to three items, £40 for up to six items or £60 for up to nine items. We are able to recycle a high proportion of the waste that we collect through this scheme. Find out more at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/wasteremoval



Recycling this Christmas

While the holiday season is a time for fun, it does generate a lot of paper, cardboard, plastic and general waste. That's why it's important we all do our bit and recycle as much as we can.

What we can recycle:

- Christmas cards (non - glittery ones)
- Wrapping paper tubes
- Drinks bottles and cans
- Cardboard boxes
- Sweets and chocolate tins and tubes

What we can't recycle:

- Wrapping paper
- Polystyrene, trays or plastic containers with any food waste on
- Christmas decorations such as tinsel and baubles
- Gift bags
- Pizza boxes

For more information about waste and recycling visit www.hartlepool.gov.uk/recycle

Storm Arwen in Hartlepool

Many homeowners and businesses across Hartlepool were recently affected by Storm Arwen which brought gusts of almost 100 miles an hour to our coastline.

Our first priority was to ensure the public stayed safe and we had a number of teams working throughout the night in hugely challenging conditions.

We also worked closely with Northern Powergrid to ensure affected supplies were restored as soon as possible, particularly for older and vulnerable residents.

In particular, we're very grateful to our wonderful communities for the way in which they worked to look after each other and to the Council's out-of-hours call out teams who were out throughout the night clearing up debris and gritting the Borough's roads to ensure disruption to residents was kept to a minimum.



Fostering IN HARTLEPOOL

YOU COULD GIVE A CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON A LOVING HOME

For more information visit
www.hartlepool.gov.uk/fostering

Help a child
or young person
have a loving
home

Call us now on
01429 405588

DEVELOP NEW SKILLS AND BOOST YOUR CAREER



TRANSFORMING LIVES, TRANSFORMING LEARNING

NVQs

Distance Learning

Apprenticeships

Community Learning

Family Learning

English for Speakers of Other Languages

Teaching & Learning Support

Health & Social Care

Early Years & Childcare

Leadership & Management

Business Administration & Customer Service

Personal Development

Wellbeing

English, Maths & Digital Skills



Explore our new curriculum and apply online today at www.hartlepoollearningandskills.com or call **01429 868616**



TEES VALLEY MAYOR

