

Council Plan Annual Report 2021/22 #NowIsTheTime





Hartlepool won its bid for £25m of government funding to further improve the town centre



The world-famous Tall Ships' Race will return to Hartlepool in July 2023



Holiday Activities and Food Programme supported over 3,000 children



Our 'Summer at Seaton' event's programme brought a fun-filled family summer to Seaton Carew



Completed work on Elephant Rock, our restored outdoor events space on Hartlepool's Headland



The construction of an accessible cycling track at Summerhill Country Park has been completed



Secured funding from the Tees Valley Mayor and Combined Authority to help the National Museum of the Royal Navy Hartlepool purchase the neighbouring Vision Retail Park



Hartlepool Waterfront Festival 2021 was a big success



Hosed Luke Jerram's 'In Memoriam', an artistic memorial to victims of the Coronavirus pandemic



Won Council of the Year at the North East Regional Energy Efficiency Awards



Our Big Lime Triathlon continues to go from strength to strength



Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs provided entertainment for all the family



Launched 'Your Say, Our Future' our new online engagement platform



Highlight – the place for sport and leisure you've been waiting for



Delivered Hartlepool Restaurant Week to help promote eateries after lockdowns

Introduction

This annual report marks the end of the first year of our 3 year Council Plan. Over this past year we have moved from responding to the pandemic to living with Covid and have focussed on setting the foundations for delivering on our long-term vision for Hartlepool.

We recognise the impact that the covid pandemic has had on us, our partners across the public, private, voluntary and community sector and mostly on our residents. We also appreciate the difficulties facing our residents as the cost of living crisis impacts on households across Hartlepool due to rising inflation and increased energy costs. We have and will continue to support our residents and communities to face these challenges over the next few years.

Over the following few pages you will read about the progress that has been made over the last 12 months and you will see how we have focused our efforts on supporting families, improving access to services, developing Hartlepool as a destination for visitors, improving opportunities for residents to access jobs and training, developing affordable and energy efficient homes and progressing plans for our key capital regeneration projects.

As a Borough we still have several challenges including high numbers of children and families who need our care and support, high levels of obesity and physical inactivity, increasing numbers of people looking for support for mental health issues, and higher than average unemployment. At the same time we face a continuing reduction in our funding to deliver services.

However, we remain optimistic. We are proud of our achievements and of our workforce who continue to deliver on the ambitious plans we have for Hartlepool. These are exciting times as we continue to work to make our Borough an even better place to live, work, visit and invest.



Councillor Shane Moore
Leader of the Council



Denise McGuckin
Managing Director



Where people are enabled to live healthy, independent and prosperous lives

- Holiday Activities and Food Programme delivered by over 30 local providers has supported over 3,000 children during the summer, Christmas and Easter holidays. Future funding for the programme has now been agreed until 2025.
- Awarded £101,000 from the Government used to tackle adult obesity by providing 3 new Adult Weight Management services including 'Fit Poolies' at Hartlepool Football Club.
- Seaton Interactive Trail launched.
- Over £380k inward investment secured from external funding partners for sport and physical activity related projects in 2021/22, including £250k for the new cycling track at Summerhill which is now complete.
- Football Foundation investment in the development of grass sports pitches – Hartlepool is one of 6 national pilot schemes
- Highlight Leisure Centre selected as one of a small number of national "pipeline" projects by Sport England for up to £2m capital investment via the Strategic Facilities Fund.
- New carers directed to Hartlepool Carers for a good conversation, a light touch assessment and access to community led support.
- Covid-19 related advice, guidance and financial support to care homes and providers of home care.
- Support to the Covid vaccination programme and training of over 100 community Covid champions.
- Digital Inclusion Team established to support the most vulnerable and isolated in our communities to access key services and opportunities.
- £490k of Tees Valley Mental Health Resilience funding and Public Health England funding has supported 20 small local projects aimed at improving mental health and wellbeing.
- Secured Ageing Well Funding to assist older people to improve their physical, mental and emotional well-being.

There's more to come...

- New care home for older people with nursing and residential care needs due to open summer 2022.
- 4 new changing places facilities to be developed with national funding, which will significantly improve accessibility for people with disabilities.
- The Highlight – waterfront leisure centre development
- Cycle Hub development with TVCA.

Where those who are vulnerable will be safe and protected from harm

- Multi Agency Child Exploitation Hub established to prevent and reduce risk to those children and young people at risk of exploitation and harm outside of their families
- The Community Support Team is piloting a new way of delivering care and support services to vulnerable children in the Victoria Ward.
- Campaign to promote the Shared Lives model as an alternative to residential care for adults with learning disabilities, mental health problems or other needs that make it harder for them to live on their own.
- Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board strengthened to include representation of those with lived experience of domestic abuse and organisations representing groups with protected characteristics. Needs Assessment and Strategy prepared and approved for implementation.
- The Bread and Butter Thing introduced to provide a sustainable solution to food poverty in the town supporting 200-300 people each week to access affordable food.
- £200k of Community Pot allocated to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations delivering projects around financial advice and support, digital inclusion, supported housing and counselling as well as the Community Led Inclusion Partnership (CLIP).

There's more to come...

- SEMH Free School ready to open in 2024



Of resilient and resourceful communities with opportunities for all

- Hartlepool announced as a Priority Improvement Area in the Education White Paper
- Significant improvement in the number of care leavers who are in higher education.
- In total 99% of Year 11 students and 95% of Year 12 students received an 'offer of learning' for the following year of their studies otherwise known as the September Guarantee. Both are above the regional and national average.
- 6,000 young people have completed Tees Valley Pathways and Routeways via the Council led Youth Employment Initiative
- Routes to Work supported 419 'hardest to reach' people to positively progress to employment.
- Over 100 volunteers have been supported into placements.
- First contact point for adult social care is now located within the Central Community Hub along with the Occupational Therapy demonstration suite and a weekly programme of events is developing to meet local needs.
- A new community based approach to support people with mental health needs is being piloted at Central Hub as part of the NHS community transformation programme.
- Sporting and cultural events including summer and Christmas pantomimes at the Borough Hall, Hartlepool Waterfront Festival, Summer at Seaton and the Big Lime Triathlon.
- Hosted Luke Jerram's 'In Memoriam'; an art installation commemorating those who lost their lives to COVID.
- Over 1,500 Test and Trace Support payments made to residents within Hartlepool providing £756,000 of financial support to local people.

There's more to come...

- Family Hubs and Supporting Families – transformation of Children's Services Early Help support

That is sustainable, clean, safe and green

- First Climate Pledge adopted committing the Council to a journey to Net Zero emissions by 2050 and improving the environment for the benefit of our communities.
- Successful application to Heritage England that will see investment into reviews of the area conservation management plans for Seaton Carew and Headland conservation areas.
- Five year review of the Integrated Community Safety Team was completed
- Funding has been received from Thirteen Group to fund two further civil enforcement officer posts within the Integrated Community Safety Team.
- 34 Fixed Penalty Notices issued for fly tipping
- 20 mph zones and traffic calming measures agreed for West Park / Valley Drive.
- Council awarded £1.25 million of the Government's Sustainable Warmth fund for green home upgrades to around 150 lower income households helping residents cut energy bills and reduce carbon emissions. Further award of £650k to improve properties who are off the gas network.
- Warm Homes Funding programme used to install free first time central heating to 77 properties.
- Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme Phase 2 being used to deliver energy efficiency improvements to 79 homes.
- Total number of homes improved through energy efficiency measures in 2021/22 was 645.
- Footpath resurfacing schemes totalling over 2,000m² have been completed.

There's more to come...

- Second platform at Hartlepool Train Station due to start in summer 2022.
- Elwick Bypass
- Briarfields Bypass

That has an inclusive and growing economy

- First ever Hartlepool Restaurant Week held in January 2022 to promote local hospitality businesses with 21 venues taking part.
- £25m Town Deal secured from government with business cases for the 5 projects being prepared for submission:
 - Health and Social Care Academy,
 - Civil Engineering Academy
 - Marina connectivity
 - Re-Imagining Middleton Grange Shopping Centre
 - Wesley Chapel Hotel Redevelopment
- Youth Voice Group established to get young people involved in regeneration plans.
- Town Centre Masterplan adopted.
- Planning permission submitted for the Highlight leisure centre and reached RIBA stage 4 of development.
- Work to bring the Headland Amphitheatre, renamed Elephant Rock, back into use have been completed.
- Summer at Seaton.
- Covid-19 support response to businesses including Business Rate Relief application and over £7m paid out to Hartlepool businesses during the year through the various government grant support schemes.

There's more to come...

- Waterfront Festival – Summer 2022
- Hosting the Tall Ships Race from 6th to 9th July 2023
- Delivery of the Town Deal programme
- Borough Hall refurbishment to be completed by 2024
- Expansion of the National Museum of the Royal Navy

With a Council that is ambitious, fit for purpose and reflects the diversity of its community

- Hybrid working pilot underway.
- Increasing opportunities for residents to contact the Council through digital channels with 296,842 digital transactions delivered and over 22,000 self-online accounts created.
- Councillor Portal launched.
- Staff Safety Policy adopted.
- Disability Confident Committed status maintained.
- Your Say Platform launched for consultation and engagement activity.
- Low carbon initiatives delivered including LED lighting in the Civic Centre.
- Constitution strengthened to ensure every Council and committee decision takes account of climate change.
- Investment made in the Council's ICT infrastructure.

There's more to come...

- Digital transformation – more services moving online to improve accessibility
- Response to the Audit & Governance Committee investigation into the accessibility of Council Services for those with disabilities or long-term conditions.



Achievements & Awards

Over 90% of schools judged to be good or better by Ofsted.



100% of children's homes operated by the Council rated good or outstanding by Ofsted.



97.8% of adult social care providers rated as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by the Care Quality Commission.



Centre for Independent Living and Waverley Terrace Allotment retain their National Autism Society Accreditation.



23 public and HBC staff car parks recognised as achieving Park Mark Award.



Elephant Rock won at the Civil Engineers North East Awards.



"Council of the Year" at the regional Energy Efficiency Association Awards.



The Bis won an RTPI National Award and RIBA North East Awards.

Ward Jackson Park and Summerhill Country Park awarded Green Flags.



Seaton Carew received a Seaside Award.



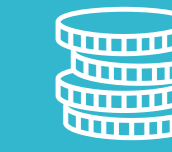
645 houses improved through energy efficiency measures.



Over 225k transactions delivered digitally.



33.5% of Council spend went to local suppliers.



#NowIsTheTime



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