

# PLEASE NOTE VENUE

## REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Thursday 6 December 2007

at 2.00 pm

in the Belle Vue Community, Sports and Youth Centre,  
Kendal Road, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:

Councillors Alison, R W Cook, S Cook, Cranney, Gibbon, Johnson, London, A Marshall,  
Worthy, Wright and Young

Resident Representatives:

Ted Jackson, Robert Steel and Iris Ryder

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

3. **MINUTES**

- 3.1 To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2007 and  
14 November 2007.

4. **RESPONSES FROM THE COUNCIL, THE EXECUTIVE OR COMMITTEES OF THE  
COUNCIL TO FINAL REPORTS OF THIS FORUM**

- 4.1 Portfolio Holder's Response to the Youth Unemployment Scrutiny  
Investigation – *Joint Report of Director of Regeneration and Planning Services  
and the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Liveability.*

5 **CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS REFERRED VIA  
SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE**

No items.

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## 6. CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS REPORTS/BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS

No items.

## 7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- 7.1 Scoping Report - Scrutiny Investigation into 'Seaton Carew Regeneration Needs and Opportunities' – *Scrutiny Support Officer*

## 8. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

### ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- i) Date of Next Meeting: 17 January 2008 at the Belle Vue Community, Sports and Youth Centre, Kendal Road, Hartlepool.

# **REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM MINUTES**

1 November 2007

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in the Avondale Centre,  
Dyke House School, Hartlepool

**Present:**

Councillor: Shaun Cook (In the Chair)

Councillors: Stephen Allison, Rob W Cook, Kevin Cranney, Steve Gibbon,  
Ann Marshall, Gladys Worthy and Edna Wright

Resident Representatives:  
Ted Jackson, Iris Ryder and Bob Steel

Also Present:  
Cath Purdy, Chief Executive, Housing Hartlepool

Officers: Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration and Planning Services  
Mark Dutton, Housing and Regeneration Co-ordinator  
Joan Wilkins, Scrutiny Support Officer  
Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

## **38. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Michael Johnson and Frances London.

## **39. Declarations of interest by Members**

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.

## **40. Minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2007**

Confirmed.

## **41. Responses from the Council, the Executive or Committees of the Council to Final Reports of this Forum**

None.

**42. Consideration of request for scrutiny reviews referred via Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee**

None.

**43. Consideration of progress reports/budget and policy framework documents**

None.

**44. Scrutiny Investigation into the Availability of Good Quality Affordable Rented Social Accommodation in Hartlepool – Exploration of Viable Ways of Increasing the Availability of Good Quality Affordable Rented Social Accommodation in Hartlepool** (*Scrutiny Support Officer*)

The Scrutiny Support Officer informed Members that representatives from the Regeneration and Planning Services Department and Housing Hartlepool had been invited to the meeting to give an overview of the key issues in relation to the availability of good quality affordable rented social accommodation in Hartlepool.

The Housing and Regeneration Co-ordinator and Chief Executive of Housing Hartlepool gave a detailed and comprehensive presentation which gave an overview of:

- Housing Needs
- Local Authority Strategic Housing Role
- Land Supply
- The Planning System
- Role of Housing Associations/Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)

Members were reminded that RSLs were not for profit organisations and were regulated by the Housing Corporation, Audit Commission and Charity Commission and were ultimately accountable to their tenants and local authorities. The criteria for bids for Housing Corporation funding bids was outlined in the presentation and it was noted the Housing Corporation would expect cross-subsidy with local authorities selling their land to RSLs for less than market value as part of their contribution to the provision of good quality affordable rented social accommodation.

The Chief Executive of Housing Hartlepool indicated that RSLs were the predominant deliverers of social housing owning over 50% of all social rented housing in the country. Members were asked to note that RSLs were prepared to build new good quality affordable rented social accommodation in

Hartlepool subject to the availability of affordable land and recognised the need to factor in a robust management and maintenance process to ensure the sustainability of the housing provided.

The difficulties faced by Hartlepool in delivering more affordable homes were access to land at affordable prices, planning constraints and funding. However, the local authority was developing a strategic view in partnership with RSLs who want to develop and deliver good quality affordable rented social accommodation in Hartlepool. Discussions were ongoing with the Housing Corporation through the Northern Housing Challenge to facilitate this. Good practice undertaken in Harrogate was being examined including the possibility of shared equity models.

The next steps in this process were outlined and included looking at potential land availability and engagement with RSLs. Members were asked to note that Housing Hartlepool were currently preparing a bid for the next round of Housing Corporation funding as were other RSLs.

A discussion ensued which included the following issues.

- (i) Members made references to several areas of land within the town and the possibility of making it available for the development of rented social housing? The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services indicated that a range of sites had been considered with a view to identifying potential sites for consideration for development. Some of these were included in RSL bids to the Housing Corporation and several of the larger sites were being considered with a view to reporting business cases to Cabinet.
- (ii) Clarification was sought on the different nationalities on the housing register and the number of ethnic origin tenants. The Chief Executive of Housing Hartlepool (HH) indicated that there were approx half a dozen different ethnic origins housed in Housing Hartlepool properties and added that less than 2% of tenants were either black or minority ethnic with the majority being of British origin. The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services stressed the importance of understanding the needs of the community as a whole and ensuring that everyone has an equal and fair chance for accommodation.
- (iii) Members questioned the reference to the creation of more flats. The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services informed Members that the current planning policy and the social housing financing system encourages an increase in density of social housing to make better use of the available land. He added that brownfield sites, for example the area around Oakesway Trading Estate, were being examined with the possibility of utilising this land for the development of social housing.
- (iv) Clarification was sought on the fact that Housing Hartlepool was a registered charity. The Chief Executive of HH responded that they had been a registered charity since September 2004 but that they did not receive any grants for being a charity.
- (v) A Member questioned how the housing stock was replenished in light

of current tenants having the Right to Buy (RTB)? The Chief Executive of HH indicated that although the purchase of properties through the RTB had increased initially it had reduced this year due to the current state of the housing market to about 50 per year. The Chief Executive of HH stressed the importance of having a sustainable plan for the development of affordable rented social housing in the future. Members were asked to note that some properties had been purchased back by HH in order to stop repossessions where owner/occupiers had fallen into difficulties. It was highlighted that only tenants who transferred from the Local Authority to HH had the right to buy.

- (vi) Housing Hartlepool was congratulated on the continuation of the provision of good quality rented social housing since taking it over from the Local Authority and the improvements made. The Chief Executive indicated that there were quality controls in place by the Housing Corporation and that Housing Hartlepool aspired to build top quality housing for Hartlepool residents.
- (vii) Reference was made to recent publicity around a new method of construction of housing in Sweden. The Chief Executive of HH indicated that although this type of housing was quicker to build, it was not cost effective. Members were informed that Housing Hartlepool were currently undertaking the development of bungalows at Nicholson Court near King Oswy Drive using a new method of construction and Members were invited to visit the completed development. It was noted that the type of sheltered accommodation which comprised of 'bedsit' flatlets was not appropriate any more with residents expecting a separate bedroom.
- (viii) Members expressed concern that residents who were not on social benefits could not afford rented accommodation. The Chief Executive of HH informed Members that at the current time, their rents were the cheapest in the town with residents being assured of decent quality housing.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Stephen Allison declared a non-prejudicial interest in this item.

- (xi) A Member queried if there was a shortage of housing in Hartlepool, why was some housing being demolished. The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services indicated that the process was about overall achieving the best possible quality housing as well as trying to increase the number of properties for the residents of Hartlepool whose aspirations was for better quality dwellings. The large number of older terraced properties and the relative cost of renovation was also discussed. In addition to this, the standards in relation to the energy conservation of housing had increased and the local authority aspired to reach these standards.
- (xii) Clarification was sought on the pressure being faced in relation to the provision of bungalows? The Chief Executive of HH indicated that there were two main housing needs; large 3-bed and older person accommodation. Although Housing Hartlepool currently have high

- levels of accommodation for the older person some of this was not fit for purpose and was being replaced to ensure the sustainability of this type of housing. The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services added that the local authority had a good working relationship with Housing Hartlepool both with the aim of improving the quality and number of good quality affordable rented social housing for residents of the town. Members were informed that the Housing Corporation had now accredited bigger private building firms, for example Persimmon Homes to be able to apply for grants to build social housing. The theory was that such companies could apply for grant to develop social housing and then approach the local housing authority to seek direction as to which RSL should manage the properties.
- (xiii) Members questioned the development at Victoria Harbour and any social housing to be provided? The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services indicated that the area was largely privately owned by PD Ports. As part of the planning permission for the areas, approximately 3500 dwelling units were to be built mainly comprising apartments and town houses. It was noted that the main funder of this was likely to be English Partnerships who were merging with the Housing Corporation and this may lead to the provision of a proportion of affordable housing in view of the wider regeneration role and focus on housing. It was noted that this development would only be cost effective with the development of high-density housing and affordable housing on a commercial land value basis.
  - (xiv) A resident representative raised the issue of highway standards and the need for this to be examined in a sensible way to enable maximum build on any site. The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services indicated that this issue was being considered.
  - (xv) Concern was expressed about the demolition of terraced housing and the cost of the housing replacing it? The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services responded that the development currently taking place in the central and north central area of the town had been undertaken through New Deal for the Communities and English Partnerships in view of the lack of demand for this type of property and the relatively high proportions of older terraced property. The Housing and Regeneration Co-ordinator indicated that in the central area development, a number of residents affected had been re-housed within the new development with support from the local authority and new deal for the communities including the provision of financial advice and support.
  - (xvi) It was questioned that if there was a shortage of land, why were brownfield sites being sold off to developers? The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services responded that the local authority needed to demonstrate how high a priority it attached to the provision of affordable social housing, including the consideration of selling land to RSLs for less than market value. The latter was essential if there was to be a reasonable chance of the Housing Corporation providing grant support.
  - (xvii) A Member asked consideration be given to whether gardens were required in properties for older people and if so, the size of these

gardens as a lot of older people cannot manage the upkeep of a large garden.

The Chief Executive of Housing Hartlepool was thanked for her attendance, presentation and for answering Members question.

### **Decision**

Members noted the presentation and discussions that followed.

#### **45. Scrutiny Investigation into the availability of good quality affordable rented social accommodation in Hartlepool – Evidence from Registered Social Landlords with Housing in Hartlepool** (*Scrutiny Support Officer*)

The Scrutiny Support Officer presented a report which informed Members that representatives from Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) with housing in Hartlepool had been invited to attend this meeting to provide evidence in relation to the ongoing inquiry into the availability of good quality affordable rented social accommodation in Hartlepool.

- (i) Members sought clarification on the future of some of the old Housing Hartlepool offices. The Chief Executive of HH indicated that some were being demolished and replaced with social housing and consideration was also being given to the possibility of shared equity properties on such sites.
- (ii) Members questioned whether the shared equity option would be offered on other new developments within the town? The Chief Executive of HH responded that this option may be offered on some of the larger development sites but that unless this was included as a condition as part of the original planning permission, there was no incentive for developers to provide this option. The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services indicated that the main aim on larger sites would often be to provide a mixed community approach including social and shared equity affordable housing as well as housing for owner occupation and make affordable housing indistinguishable to private housing in terms of design.
- (iii) There was concern among Members about the high level of rent expected for the properties at the Middle Warren development ~~through~~ being developed by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.
- (iv) Members indicated their support for the disposal of local authority land at less than market value where appropriate in order to comply with Housing Corporation funding criteria, although they added that this should be examined on an individual basis and not through a blanket policy. It was agreed that consideration should be given to a general criteria based policy indicating in principle that the local authority was prepared to sell its land to RSLs at below market value subject to certain



criteria to demonstrate the local authority's commitment to the provision of good quality affordable social rented housing. Within this each case could be considered on its merits.

- (v) Clarification was sought on the capital receipts for the north central area of Hartlepool where the demolition of a number of streets had already taken place? The Housing and Regeneration Co-ordinator indicated that this area was now Council-owned and was being developed by Wimpey for housing and bungalows. The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services added that any capital receipts from the sale of this land were used to balance the financial costs of the scheme which was funded from external sources.
- (vi) Members supported a review of some business allocations in the local plan to establish whether there was any potential for the provision of land for affordable social housing.

Members were informed that an informal meeting of the Scrutiny forum would be held on 6 December to consider the draft final report.

### **Decision**

Members noted the discussions that would be used for inform the Forum's final report.

SHAUN COOK

CHAIRMAN

# **REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM**

## **MINUTES**

14 November 2007

The meeting commenced at 3.30 pm at Owton Manor Community Centre,  
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool

### **Present:**

Councillor: Shaun Cook (In the Chair)

Councillors: Stephen Allison Rob W Cook, Kevin Cranney, Steve Gibbon,  
Frances London, Ann Marshall, Edna Wright and Dave Young

Resident Representatives:  
Ted Jackson and Iris Ryder

Officers: Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration and Planning Services  
Stuart Green, Assistant Director  
Alison Mawson, Head of Community Safety and Prevention  
Charlotte Burnham, Scrutiny Manager  
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

Also present:  
Councillor Victor Tumilty, Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure  
and Tourism

### **46. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Bob Steel, Resident Representative, the Mayor as Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Liveability and Peter Jackson as Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Communities

### **47. Declarations of interest by Members**

None

### **48. Minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2007**

It was agreed that the minutes be deferred to the next meeting of the Forum.

**49. Responses from the Council, the Executive or Committees of the Council to Final Reports of this Forum**

None

**50. Consideration of request for scrutiny reviews referred via Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee**

None

**51. Regeneration and Planning Services Department: Budget and Policy Framework Initial Consultation Proposals 2008/09** *(Scrutiny Manager)*

The Scrutiny Manager advised that at a meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee held on 2 November 2007 it was agreed that the initial consultation proposals for 2008/09 be considered on a departmental basis by the appropriate Scrutiny Forum. The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services and the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism were in attendance and the Director presented the departmental pressures and priorities, grant terminations and contingencies which were attached as appendices to the report.

**Budget Pressures and Contingency Items**

The Forum raised a number of queries in relation to budget pressures to which the Director of Regeneration and Planning Services provided clarification. Following discussion in relation to the funding for a Supported Housing Co-ordinator, a Member suggested that future funding for this post be explored with Housing Hartlepool.

Following a lengthy question and answer session in relation to the town-wide CCTV system and the Forums comments that other providers should be approached in relation to line rental, signal transmission and repairs and maintenance costs, the Head of Community Safety and Prevention agreed to investigate alternative options for future provision as part of the review process.

A lengthy discussion ensued in relation to the benefits of carrying out conservation area appraisals and the use of consultants to undertake this task. Whilst some Members expressed concerns regarding the use of consultants to undertake this task, others felt this was an area that required independent expertise. In response, the Director of Regeneration and Planning Services provided the reasons for this approach.

### **Grant Terminations**

With regard to Neighbourhood Renewal Funding and the impact the termination of funding would have on the authority, the Forum expressed concerns that the majority of posts within Regeneration and Planning were grant funded which could result in the loss of key skilled staff. The Director of Regeneration and Planning provided clarification regarding the various funding regimes and highlighted how this could be managed.

### **Budget Priorities**

The Forum considered the budget priorities and debated these in terms of priority. The Head of Community Safety and Prevention provided advice in relation to the suggestion of joint working arrangements and that the Domestic Violence Prevention role be combined with the role to address alcohol abuse. Following further discussion it was suggested that both roles be supported, as proposed in Appendix D, with joint working arrangements of these roles. In addition, it was considered that emphasis be placed on economic development marketing as this was key in the process of encouraging inward investment.

### **Recommendation**

The Budget and Policy Framework initial consultation proposals for 2008/09 were considered and the following proposals would be presented to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 23 November 2007 to enable a formal response to be presented to Cabinet on 17 December 2007:-

- (i) It was proposed to accept the budget pressures as outlined in Appendix A with the suggestion that alternative providers for the provision of line rental relating to the CCTV system be explored for the future, the outcome of which to be reported to a future meeting of the Forum.
- (ii) Members supported the pressures to be treated as contingency items, as outlined in Appendix B.
- (iii) Members supported the schedule of grant regimes as detailed in Appendix C, However, concerns were expressed in relation to the termination of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding as detailed above.
- (iv) Members supported the budget priorities as detailed in Appendix D with the suggestion of joint working arrangements between the posts of domestic violence prevention and alcohol abuse and that emphasis be placed on economic development marketing.

SHAUN COOK

CHAIRMAN

## **REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM**

**6 December 2007**



**Report of:** Joint Report of Director of Regeneration and Planning and the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Liveability.

**Subject:** PORTFOLIO HOLDERS RESPONSE TO THE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

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### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum with feedback on the recommendations from the investigation into the Youth Unemployment Scrutiny Investigation, which was reported to Cabinet on 11 June 2007 and 12 November 2007.

### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The investigation into Youth Unemployment conducted by this Forum falls under the remit of the Regeneration and Planning Services Departments and is, under the Executive Delegation Scheme, within the service area covered by the Regeneration and Liveability Portfolio Holder.
- 2.2 On 11 June 2007, Cabinet considered the Final Report of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum into Youth Unemployment. The report was well received, and all of the Scrutiny Forum recommendations were approved, with a request that an action plan for the implementation of these recommendations be prepared and reported back to Cabinet.
- 2.3 On 12 November, Cabinet considered and approved the Action Plan in response to these recommendations.
- 2.4 This report provides feedback from the Portfolio Holder following the Cabinet's consideration of, and decisions in relation to this Forum's recommendations.
- 2.5 In addition to this report a further progress report will be produced for Member's consideration six months after the Final Report was considered by Cabinet to enable Members to monitor the implementation of their recommendations.

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### 3. SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS AND EXECUTIVE DECISION

- 3.1 Following consideration of the Final Report, Cabinet approved the recommendations in their entirety. Details of each recommendation and proposed actions to be taken following approval by Cabinet are provided in the Action Plan attached at **Appendix A**.

### 4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 Following the recommendations given by Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum members it was acknowledged that a partnership approach was required to tackle youth unemployment within Hartlepool. Therefore, in the first instance an initial meeting between representatives of Economic Development and Children's Services (including officers from The Connexions Service) was arranged so that the issues relating to youth unemployment could be raised and actions taken. Within the meeting it was agreed that Officers would meet on a quarterly meeting with membership being extended to The Learning & Skills Council (LSC) and Jobcentre Plus as both agencies were identified as being key stakeholders.
- 4.2 These meetings have identified that through collaborative working there is a far greater opportunity for the cross cutting targets relating to youth unemployment and to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) can be achieved.
- 4.3 Economic Development has commissioned a consultant to undertake a number of tasks including;
- Engaging with Jobcentre Plus to identify whether there can be early interventions for those young people aged 18 plus who have registered with Jobcentre Plus on Job Seekers Allowance (Currently there is a six month wait for young people to enter onto the New Deal 18 to 24 years programme unless day one eligibility is given by a New Deal Adviser).
  - Identifying where there are future opportunities for the number of Modern Apprenticeships to be increased within the public, private and voluntary sector (with a specific review of Hartlepool Borough Council and the Primary Care Trust).
- 4.4 Following the Scrutiny Review meeting's the Economic Development Department have re-visited all of the organisations who have been allocated Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) Jobs & the Economy Themed funding to ensure that where appropriate their projects positively engage and target young people who are NEET or unemployed.
- 4.5 Bi-monthly meetings with Hartlepool Working Solution's (HWS) (A subsidiary of Economic Development) Officers who manage NRF Jobs & The Economy Themed funded projects has been introduced so that they are regularly

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- updated on the number of young people who are unemployed so that a proportion of the project's activity can be aligned to this key group. Within these meetings other agencies are invited to attend including the Youth Offending Service and the Leaving Care Service so that officers can highlight current projects and where possible formulate a plan of action to engage with young people from these departments.
- 4.6 In terms of the NRF funding, Hartlepool Economic Forum is the Jobs & the Economy thematic partnership and is responsible for the commissioning of £2.2 million of NRF projects between 2006 to 2008. This funding has been used to lever in a further £1 million of European Funding to assist in the delivery of the Economic Forum's key objectives (including reducing youth unemployment).
- 4.7 A number of these NRF funded projects have provided significant support to young people including HWS Workroute's Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) programme which provides a fixed term contract with the Local Authority (minimum 26 weeks) offering the opportunity for an individual to work towards career aspirations; gain training while earning a realistic wage and help to overcome barriers to employment. There are specific projects managed by HWS including Women's Opportunities and Jobsbuild with the latter providing job creation and apprenticeship subsidies, back to work grants and a Bursary Scheme (A one-off payment of a maximum of £500 for those with a guaranteed job offer who require, for example, tools, licences or uniforms).
- 4.8 Through this funding stream, the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) continue to successfully deliver a number of training programmes which target specific groups such as young people who are unemployed, NEETs, Carers, people with drug and alcohol misuse issues, young people who are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless. It is worth noting that two specific projects, 'Carers into Training and Employment which is delivered by Hartlepool Carers and The Homelessness (STEP) project delivered by DISC have LPSA funding and are featured as outcomes within the Local Area Agreement (LAA) Jobs and the Economy Theme. The programmes provided through the NRF have given young people mentoring support, access to flexible accredited training, voluntary opportunities within a working environment and progression routes into further training or employment. A recent evaluation of the NRF funded projects managed by Economic Development Officers highlighted high satisfaction rates across all programmes.
- 4.9 Representatives from Economic Development have attended initial meetings with the new Children's Services Integrated Service Managers (ISMs) to review how employment and training provision can be effectively promoted within the five ISM locality areas (As shown in the table below). Economic Development will also contribute towards each operational business plan (with a clear indication of how it will assist in working towards economic well-being for all). Economic Development will also link in with the newly appointed

Parenting Practitioners (who are a single referral point for families) to ensure that they are fully briefed on current programmes such as Connect2Work but more importantly ensure that individuals can be referred to qualified Information, Advice and Guidance Officers on request.

| <b>Localities</b> | <b>Wards</b> |
|-------------------|--------------|
| NORTH 1           | St Hilda     |
|                   | Brus         |
|                   | Hart         |
| NORTH 2           | Dyke House   |
|                   | Throston     |
| CENTRAL 1         | Grange       |
|                   | Park         |
|                   | Elwick       |
|                   | Stranton     |
| CENTRAL 2         | Foggy Furze  |
|                   | Rift House   |
| SOUTH 1           | Rossmere     |
|                   | Seaton       |
|                   | Owton        |
|                   | Fens         |
|                   | Greatham     |

- 4.10 A representative from Economic Development will become a member of the Hartlepool Intervention Partnership (HIP) multi-agency meetings to ensure that there is an employment and training theme considered when producing action plans for young people and their families. It is anticipated that this representation will give clear direction to the HIP Strategic Officers on what employment and training provision is currently available within Hartlepool and how young people and their families can access this.
- 4.11 A longer term strategy will be for Economic Development Department to further develop and lead on the JobsMart consortia. JobsMart is Hartlepool's Employment and Skills Consortia with a current membership of over 40 employment and training providers from the public, private and voluntary sector who have access to mainstream and area based funding which will provide a broad range of provision to customers and beneficiaries. Jobs Mart has been established in order to provide a more cohesive and integrated approach to employment and training provision in the town, which will be used to better target residents in the NRF wards, raise employment rates in these areas and reduce benefit dependency. The consortia approach is one that Central Government are supporting to capacity build and develop communities to deliver services at a local level and address local (neighbourhood) need.
- 4.12 JobsMart will operate a first point of contact employment shop from premises in Park Road and will be managed by Hartlepool HWS and staffed by members of the Jobs Mart Consortia. The consortia development is built on

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the existing Outreach Networks and will formalise partnerships and join together in a coordinated approach the range of existing services and organisations in Hartlepool that exist to support workless residents into employment, education or training, or to develop social/life skills (with young people benefiting from the service).

- 4.13 HWS have developed a JobsMart Steering Group with representatives from New Deal for Communities, Economic Development, Jobcentre Plus, the VCS and the private sector to provide a strategic approach to the consortia. Partnership agreements have been drafted which will bring agencies closer together so that organisations can develop new initiatives and identify where there are gaps in provision.
- 4.14 Where gaps in provision are identified, Economic Development will utilise this joint working to bid for funding opportunities through the European Social Fund (ESF) Co-Financing Objective 3. It is estimated that over £155 million of ESF funding will be available within the North East with one of the key priorities being to reduce the number of young people who are NEET in the region.
- 4.15 Economic Development have continued to develop innovative projects which will target young people who are NEET and since April 2007 have led on a very successful programme titled Connect2Work which provides Family Caseload support. This project provides pre-employability programmes for young people who are NEET and will offer 30 Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) placements with The Connexions Service and The Leaving Care Service guaranteed ten places each. To date there have been nearly 140 young people referred to the programme.
- 4.16 Economic Development have also been working closely with Jobcentre Plus who have Deprived Area Funding (DAF) of approximately £400,000 for 2007/08. This funding is a refocused, area based approach that encourages key stakeholders who support customers in recognised ward areas of social and economic disadvantage to further develop partnership working and create flexible provision.
- 4.17 Presently, a number of the DAF projects are predominantly working with young people who are NEET. Through these projects, there will be enhanced opportunities for residents to access support and mentoring (including 1-1 support) so that they can gain the confidence and motivation in which to work towards a qualification (including skills for life courses), enter into voluntary work and progress into their chosen employment or training path. Projects will provide regular information, advice and guidance to individuals so that they are constantly kept up to date on labour market opportunities.
- 4.18 There are also specific projects which provide mentoring and counselling to young people to sustain them in employment or training. This approach is quite unique and compliments the Regional Employability Framework (REF) which highlights the need for aftercare to ensure that support services

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continue after an individual enters into employment or training. Currently, service provision tends to cease when an individual enters into employment but this initial stage is often when continual support is most needed. Therefore, these projects are a vital service which is necessary to sustain an individual in employment or training.

- 4.19 Through the DAF fund, a Neighbourhood Employment Awareness Programme (NEAP) survey was undertaken. The NEAP survey was a questionnaire which was designed to help local residents identify their training and employment needs and to advise on what current opportunities were available to individuals in Hartlepool. The survey was carried out by teams of IAG workers undertaking a door-to-door knocking exercise across the stated wards with 4,420 residents being engaged with.
- 4.20 There was a total of seven community organisations involved with the delivery of the IAG interviews and NEAP survey. The tables below show the providers involved in completing the survey and a breakdown of how many surveys were completed in each geographical area.

| <b>Name of Providers</b>                   |
|--|
| Owton Fens Community Association (OFCA)    |
| Belle Vue (BV)                             |
| Manor Residents (MR)                       |
| Owton Manor West (OMW)                     |
| Wharton Trust (WT)                         |
| West View Employment Action Centre (WVEAC) |
| Headland Development Trust (HDT)           |

| <b>Geographical Area Surveyed</b> | <b>No. of Surveys completed</b> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Rossmere/Seaton Grange            | 642                             |
| New Deal                          | 394                             |
| Owton Manor                       | 895                             |
| Rift House                        | 529                             |
| Dyke House                        | 503                             |
| West View                         | 967                             |
| Headland                          | 490                             |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>4,420</b>                    |

- 4.21 Following on from this survey, Economic Development have met with a number of the above agencies to ensure that they re-engage with these residents. Within a meeting with the Wharton Trust, it has been agreed that a pilot project will be developed that will target specific streets in the Dyke House ward. Economic Development will provide support to The Wharton Trust who will lead on the co-ordination of all activity. A number of agencies such as The Connexions Service and Jobcentre Plus will provide Advisers who will form part of a team that will be developed which will engage with workless households. Volunteers will be involved in this engagement and up

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

to ten jobless residents will be funded to complete an NVQ Level 2 in Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG). A working group has now been established to implement this project with representatives from a raft of agencies including the Wharton Trust, Economic Development Department, the Family Intervention Partnership Team, Connexions, Jobcentre Plus and Neighbourhood Services.

- 4.22 Economic Development continues to lead on a number of projects such as Tees Valley Works and Building Futures which are partnerships between the five local authorities. These partnerships have provided opportunities to deliver community based programmes aimed at engaging with the hardest to reach client groups and have been very successful in developing innovative projects that meet the needs of individuals from specific target audiences. For example, funding from Tees Valley Works and Aim Higher was used so that West View could deliver a pre-employability training programme for care leavers and looked after children. This programme provided participants with a guaranteed interview for an ILM place and the retention and achievement rate amongst the group was above 90%. Building Futures continues to offer training and employment opportunities within the construction sector and continues to develop partnerships with key agencies and employers to ensure that young people can continue on programmes such as Modern Apprenticeships in areas such as bricklaying, joinery and plumbing.
- 4.23 Economic Development commissioned a consultant to identify if there are future opportunities to increase the number of Modern Apprenticeships within the public, private and voluntary sector. A proposed action currently being assessed is the development of a blueprint for HBC to facilitate another organisation to take on the role of a Group Training Association (GTA).

A GTA is highlighted within the Modern Apprenticeships – Apprenticeship Task Force report as *“bringing together employers in a locality to share the costs and administrative burden of running an apprenticeship programme which has encouraged many smaller companies to take on apprenticeships”* pg21, (July 2005). A Modern Apprenticeship Taskforce was set up in February 2003 with the twin objectives of increasing the number and range of employers offering apprenticeships and ensuring that these apprenticeships reflect the changing needs of employers and young people. This Taskforce is made up of private, public sector representatives and agencies involved in the delivery of the apprenticeships programme. Promotion of GTAs is a recommendation in the Apprenticeships Task Force Report (2005) and this report recommends that the LSC should make initial funding available for their set up.

Interest and support has been expressed from partners (including HBC and the Primary Care Trust) for an intermediary body to support both the employer and the young person. Discussions are currently ongoing with the LSC in relation to funding the start up for a GTA. A host organisation is still to be identified who could become a GTA ‘Ambassador’ but it is proposed that if start up funding is secured then it should be utilised to employ an Intermediary

worker to be employed with the host organisation who would liaise with a number of employers within a specific geographical area or across a number of sectors.

In Australia, similar schemes such as Group Training Companies are running successfully. The proposed GTA would provide a similar scheme to the Australian model which provides core services to the employer including:

- Arranging and monitoring apprenticeships training
- Arranging job rotation
- Mentoring (for apprentice and employer)

For sustainability of the GTA, the consultant is also evaluating the feasibility of charging employers a small cost recovery charge for providing this service.

An Employer event in February 2008 is being arranged through Worksmart to promote the benefits of the introduction of a GTA including support to employers from Small to Medium Sized (SMEs) companies to offer apprenticeships and mentoring and support (for the apprentice and employer).

## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That Members note the proposed actions detailed within the Action Plan appended to this report (**Appendix A**) and seeks clarification on its content where felt appropriate.

**Contact Officer:-** Antony Steinberg  
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## BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) The Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's Final Report into Youth Unemployment considered by Cabinet on 11 June 2007
- (ii) The Action Plan considered by Cabinet on the 12 November 2007.
- (iii) Decision Record of Council/Cabinet held on Cabinet on 11 June 2007 and 12 November 2007.

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

**NAME OF FORUM:** Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

**NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY:** Youth Unemployment

**DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT:** Cabinet on 11 June 2007

| RECOMMENDATION   | EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION   | LEAD OFFICER     | DELIVERY TIMESCALE |
|--|--|------------------|--------------------|
| (1) That the Authority is commended for taking on an active role in relation to Youth Unemployment and that the value of this work is supported and that, wherever possible, it should be supported further.   | Economic Development acknowledges the support of the Regeneration and Planning Services Members.   | Antony Steinberg | Completed          |
| (2) That the data issues and potential project areas identified in the <i>Youth Unemployment in Hartlepool: Developing an evidence base report</i> , which has been attached at Appendix A, are supported as a means to maintain the momentum generated for this issue through the introduction of the LAA target. | Hartlepool Economic Development will continue to develop partnerships so that they can maximise funding opportunities and progress project areas as identified within the stated report. Economic Development continue to lead on a number of very successful sub-regional employment and training projects (which are in partnership with the five local authorities within the Tees Valley) and this proven track record will be advantageous in bidding for other funding opportunities through Jobcentre | Antony Steinberg | July 2007          |

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

**NAME OF FORUM:** Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

**NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY:** Youth Unemployment

**DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT:** Cabinet on 11 June 2007

| RECOMMENDATION | EXECUTIVE RESPONSE /<br>PROPOSED ACTION   | LEAD<br>OFFICER   | DELIVERY<br>TIMESCALE |               |
|----------------|---|---|-----------------------|---------------|
|                | Plus and The Learning & Skills Council's ESF Objective 3 Co-financing round.  |   |                       |               |
| (3)            | That, given that Connexions is being brought under the remit of the Local Authority, the Authority (and Economic Development and Children's Services, in particular) seek to work closely with Connexions to support young people to achieve economic well-being. | Hartlepool Economic Development Department and Children's Services have formally agreed to meet on a quarterly basis as part of a working group to identify key actions that can be introduced to increase the number of young people to achieve economic well-being. The membership of this working group has further been widened and representatives from Children's Services (including the Assistant Director, Connexions Interim Locality Manager, 14-19 Co-ordinator, Economic Development Manager with Jobcentre Plus and the Learning & Skills Council) also being in attendance at future meetings. | Antony Steinberg      | November 2007 |

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

**NAME OF FORUM:** Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

**NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY:** Youth Unemployment

**DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT:** Cabinet on 11 June 2007

| RECOMMENDATION | EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION   | LEAD OFFICER   | DELIVERY TIMESCALE          |
|----------------|--|--|-----------------------------|
| (4)            | That further research should be conducted into the impact of the provision of key stakeholders on careers guidance and training for under 16's and that these services should be fully integrated within schools.      | A Curriculum Development Officer has now been appointed by the Children's Services Department whose remit is to develop and improve Careers Educational Guidance (CEG) within schools. Connexions have jointly commissioned a consultant to complete an audit review of current Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) across Hartlepool. With the roll-out of national IAG standards due in April 2008 an improvement action plan will be introduced as providers will need to measure against these new IAG standards. | Mark Smith and Tom Argument |
| (5)            | That the Authority should lobby for increased flexibility of the New Deal programme so that young people are able to access training programmes through this programme even if they have been unemployed for less than | There has been meeting's with Jobcentre Plus which has highlighted that day one eligibility for young people who have literacy and numeracy problems, are ex-offenders or where English is not their first language  | Antony Steinberg            |
|                |  |  | November 2007               |

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

**NAME OF FORUM:** Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

**NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY:** Youth Unemployment

**DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT:** Cabinet on 11 June 2007

| RECOMMENDATION | EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION  | LEAD OFFICER | DELIVERY TIMESCALE |
|----------------|---|--------------|--------------------|
|                | <p>six months.</p> <p>continues. Jobcentre Plus acknowledge that waiting six months before accessing the New Deal programme is not always beneficial but there was concerns that the mandatory nature of New Deal may mean that young people who access the service too early – and cannot sustain the programme – are at serious risk of potential benefit sanctions. Therefore, Economic Development Department are exploring the potential to introduce a pre-New Deal project to work with young people unemployed less than 6 months to provide intensive support which will be used as a vehicle to assist individuals to identify suitable progression routes.</p> <p>This issue will be further reviewed within the quarterly youth unemployment working group as outlined in Ref. 3.</p> |              |                    |



**DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT:** Cabinet on 11 June 2007

## 4.1

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

NAME OF FORUM: Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Youth Unemployment

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: Cabinet on 11 June 2007

| RECOMMENDATION | EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION  | LEAD OFFICER   | DELIVERY TIMESCALE |
|----------------|---|----------------|--------------------|
| (7)            | <p>Identifying where there are future opportunities for the number of Modern Apprenticeships to be increased within the public, private and voluntary sector (with a specific review of Hartlepool Borough Council and the Primary Care Trust).</p> <p>Economic Development commissioned a consultant to identify if there are future opportunities to increase the number of Modern Apprenticeships within the public, private and voluntary sector. A proposed action currently being assessed is the development of a blueprint for HBC to facilitate another organisation to take on the role of a Group Training Association (GTA).</p> <p>A GTA is highlighted within the Modern apprenticeships – Apprenticeship Task Force report as <i>“bringing together employers in a locality to share the costs and administrative burden of running an apprenticeship programme which has encouraged many smaller companies to take on apprenticeships”</i> pg21, (July 2005).</p> | Patrick Wilson | April 2008         |

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

**NAME OF FORUM:** Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

**NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY:** Youth Unemployment

**DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT:** Cabinet on 11 June 2007

| RECOMMENDATION | EXECUTIVE RESPONSE /<br>PROPOSED ACTION   | LEAD<br>OFFICER | DELIVERY<br>TIMESCALE |
|----------------|---|-----------------|-----------------------|
|                | <p>Interest and support has been expressed from partners (including HBC and the Primary Care Trust) for an intermediary body to support both the employer and the young person. Discussions are currently ongoing with the LSC in relation to funding the start up for a GTA. A host organisation is still to be identified who could become a GTA 'Ambassador' but it is proposed that if start up funding is secured then it should be utilised to employ an Intermediary worker. This individual would be employed by the host organisation who would liaise with a number of employers within a specific geographical area or across a number of sectors.</p> <p>In Australia, similar schemes such as Group Training Companies are running</p> |                 |                       |

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

**NAME OF FORUM:** Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

**NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY:** Youth Unemployment

**DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT:** Cabinet on 11 June 2007

| RECOMMENDATION | EXECUTIVE RESPONSE /<br>PROPOSED ACTION  | LEAD<br>OFFICER | DELIVERY<br>TIMESCALE |
|----------------|--|-----------------|-----------------------|
|                | <p>successfully. The proposed GTA would provide a similar scheme to the Australian model which provides core services to the employer including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arranging and monitoring apprenticeships training</li> <li>• Arranging job rotation</li> <li>• Mentoring (for apprentice and employer)</li> </ul> <p>For sustainability of the GTA, the consultant is also evaluating the feasibility of charging employers a small cost recovery charge for providing this service.</p> <p>An Employer event in February 2008 is being arranged through Worksmart to promote the benefits of the introduction</p> |                 |                       |

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

**NAME OF FORUM:** Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

**NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY:** Youth Unemployment

**DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT:** Cabinet on 11 June 2007

| RECOMMENDATION | EXECUTIVE RESPONSE /<br>PROPOSED ACTION   | LEAD<br>OFFICER | DELIVERY<br>TIMESCALE |
|----------------|---|-----------------|-----------------------|
|                | of a GTA including support to employers from Small to Medium Sized (SMEs) companies to offer apprenticeships and mentoring and support (for the apprentice and employer). |                 |                       |

## **REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM**

6 December 2007



**Report of:** Scrutiny Support Officer

**Subject:** SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO SEATON CAREW  
– REGENERATION NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES  
– SCOPING REPORT

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To make proposals to Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum for their forthcoming investigation into 'Seaton Carew - Regeneration Needs and Opportunities'.

### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 At its meeting on the 14 June 2007 the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum selected 'Seaton Carew - Regeneration Needs and Opportunities' as the second of the two topics chosen for its 2007/8 Work Programme. The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee approved the Forum's 2007/8 Work Programme on 29 June 2007.
- 2.2 Seaton Carew, situated to the south of Hartlepool, has a population of 6240, with 2540 households. The area is named after a Norman French family called Carou and like many coastal places on the neighbouring coast started its life as a small fishing village. This, however, changed in the nineteenth century with the rising popularity of health resorts resulting in Seaton Carew becoming especially popular with the Darlington Quakers.
- 2.3 Whilst the 20th century saw little change within Seaton Carew in terms of additional amenities considerable regeneration work has been undertaken, the details of which are to be explored in greater detail during the course of the investigation. To enable the Forum to begin its work, the intention of this report is to scope the investigation into 'Seaton Carew - Regeneration Needs and Opportunities' and on this basis, Members are asked today to formalise the overall aim, terms of reference and timetable for the investigation. Suggestions for each of these and other areas of the investigation are outlined below.

### **3. OVERALL AIM OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION**

- 3.1 To consider the effect of past regeneration investment in Seaton Carew and explore the area's future regeneration needs and opportunities.

### **4. PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION**

- 4.1 The following Terms of Reference for the investigation are proposed:-

- (a) To gain an understanding of national, regional and sub regional economic policy and the ways this can influence approaches to the regeneration of Hartlepool, and in particular Seaton Carew;
- (b) To gain an understanding of the key stakeholders / partners involved in the regeneration of Seaton Carew and their roles and responsibilities; (i.e. residents, commercial businesses and the Council, etc.)
- (c) To gain an understanding of current and future community facility provision in Seaton Carew and explore their role in the regeneration of the area;
- (d) To gain an understanding of the Councils land holdings in Seaton Carew and their potential role in the regeneration of the area;
- (e) To gain an understanding of how Hartlepool, and in particular Seaton Carew, is marketed to attract tourism and businesses and consider if there are any additional ways to raise the town / area's profile;
- (f) To consider the scale, range and impact of previous regeneration investment in Seaton Carew by the public and private sector over the last five years;
- (g) To explore Seaton Carew's current and future regeneration needs, and opportunities, and gain an understanding of the plans and strategies being implemented to address with them;
- (h) To explore examples of good practice in another Local Authority(s), and lessons learnt, in relation to the regeneration of coastal areas / towns; and
- (i) To seek the views of the public, other key stakeholders and local businesses in relation to the effectiveness of previous regeneration activities in Seaton Carew and the areas future regeneration needs and opportunities.

### **5. POTENTIAL AREAS OF ENQUIRY/SOURCES OF EVIDENCE**

- 5.1 Members of the Forum can request a range of evidential and comparative information throughout the Scrutiny review.

5.2 The Forum can invite a variety of people to attend to assist in the forming of a balanced and focused range of recommendations as follows:-

- (a) Member of Parliament for Hartlepool;
- (b) Elected Mayor (Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Regeneration and Liveability);
- (c) Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Culture, Leisure and Tourism;
- (d) Seaton Ward Councillors;
- (e) Officers from the Regeneration and Planning Services, Neighbourhood Services and Adult and Community Services Departments;

*(Issues including regeneration, marketing, tourism, waste disposal, conservation and community services)*

- (f) Local Residents / residents groups; (Additional suggestions welcomed from the Forum)

*(E.g. Seaton Carew Renewal and Advisory Group (SCRAG), Seaton Carew Youth Centre Committee, Elm Tree Caravan Park Management Group, Woodcroft Allotment Association and Seaton Carew Bowls Consortium)*

- (g) Representatives for the Business Community in Seaton Carew; (Additional suggestions welcomed from the Forum)

*(E.g. Hartlepool Economic Forum, Seaton Golf Club, Seaton Carew Renewal and Advisory Group and Seaton Carew Cricket and Social Club)*

- (h) Representatives from another local authority(s) as an example of good practice and lessons learnt;

*(E.g. Redcar and Cleveland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside)*

- (i) Representatives from stakeholders; (Additional suggestions welcomed from the Forum)

*(E.g. Seaton Carew Renewal Advisory Group (SCRAG), The Foreshore Management Group, English Heritage, Heritage Lottery Fund, CABI, Tees Valley Unlimited / Joint Strategy Unit and One North East, Area Tourism Partnership – Visit Tees Valley)*

- (j) Information on best practice and the lessons learnt in relation to the regeneration of coastal areas / towns;

*(E.g. The British Urban Regeneration Association, Possible event for the Chair to attend on behalf of the Forum and English Heritage ('An asset*



*and a challenge: Heritage and Regeneration), Destination Performance UK etc.)*

(k) South Neighbourhood Forum;

5.3 The Forum may also wish to refer to a variety of documentary/internet sources, key suggestions are as highlighted below:-

- (a) Hartlepool Tourism Strategy;
- (b) Local Plan;
- (c) Seaton Carew Tourism Strategy 2003-08;
- (d) Seaton Carew Tourism Strategy Consultation Update - Recent Survey and Consultation Results (April 2007);
- (e) Visit Tees Valley Management Action Plan and Business Plan;
- (f) North East Tourism Strategy
- (g) One North East Coastal Framework;
- (h) Regional Economic Strategy;
- (i) Regional Spatial Strategy;
- (j) Tees Valley Coastal Arc Strategy;
- (k) Communities and Local Government Select Committee Inquiry into Coastal Towns;
- (l) Foreshore Co-ordination Committee (agendas and reports);
- (m) An Asset and a Challenge: Heritage and Regeneration (English Heritage);
- (n) Tees Valley City Region Development Programme, Business Case and Investment Plan;
- (j) Visit Tees Valley Action Plan;
- (o) Marketing documentation;
- (p) Railway Approaches Scrutiny Report (Includes Seaton Carew Station)
- (q) Public Conveniences Scrutiny Report;
- (r) Coastal Protection Strategy;
- (s) Foreshore Strategy;
- (t) Shoreline Management Plan (2006);
- (u) Planning Policy Statement 25;
- (v) Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
- (w) Sports Pitch Strategy;
- (x) Planning Policy Guidance 17;
- (y) Indoor Sports Facility Strategy; and
- (z) Multi Use Games Strategy.

## 6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY

6.1 Community engagement plays a crucial role in the Scrutiny process and paragraph 5.2 details whom the Forum could involve. However, thought will need to be given to the way in which the Forum wishes to encourage those views and how the approach adopted will be structured.

6.2 In addition, diversity issues have been considered in the background research for this enquiry under the Equality Standards for Local Government. As such the views of local diversity groups will be sought throughout the inquiry where

felt appropriate and time allows. Consequently, consideration has been given as to how the views of people from minority communities of interest or heritage (for example, people with disabilities, people with learning disabilities, people with mental health problems, black and minority ethnic people, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people), which may not be gathered through the usual community engagement routes, can be included over the course of the inquiry.

## **7. REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM THE DEDICATED OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BUDGET**

- 7.1 Consideration has been given, through the background research for this scoping report, to the need to request funding from the dedicated Overview and Scrutiny budget to aid Members in their enquiry. The blank pro forma attached at **Appendix A** outlines the criteria on which a request to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee will be judged.
- 7.2 At the time of production of this report no definite need had been identified for funding from the dedicated Overview and Scrutiny budget to assist in this investigation. However, the Forum is asked to be aware that discussions are ongoing regarding the possible involvement of an organisation to assist in the provision of 'best practice' evidence. This could, during the course of the investigation result in an application for funding and an update on this will be provided at the meeting.

## **8. PROPOSED TIMETABLE OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION**

- 8.1 Detailed below is the proposed timetable for the review to be undertaken, which may be changed at any stage:-

**6 December 2007** - 'Scoping Session' - To formalise the process for the Forum's investigation.

**17 January 2008** - *Diarded meeting (Budget, Railway Approaches – Portfolio Holder Feedback and the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy). Not possible to take reports on this investigation to this meeting.*

**24 January 2008** - (Possible additional meeting) – Formal meeting of the Forum to receive:-

- (i) A 'Setting the Scene' presentation / report from the Department:
  - Gain an understanding of national, regional and sub regional policy in relation to the regeneration of Hartlepool, and in particular Seaton Carew. *(Covering term of reference (a))*;

- To gain an understanding of the Councils land holdings in Seaton Carew and their potential role in the regeneration of the area *(Covering term of reference (d))*;
  - To gain an understanding of the key stakeholders / partners involved in the regeneration of Seaton Carew and their roles and responsibilities *(Covering term of reference (b))*; and
  - To consider the scale, range and impact of previous regeneration investment in Seaton Carew *(Covering term of reference (f))*.
- (iii) Evidence from the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Liveability Neighbourhoods and Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and *Tourism* *(To be confirmed)*;
- (iv) Evidence from the Member of Parliament for Hartlepool *(To be confirmed)*; and
- (v) Evidence from Ward Councillors *(To be confirmed)*.

**w/c 28 January 2008 - Site Visit** - To another Local Authority to provide examples of good practice and lessons learnt in relation to the regeneration of coastal areas / towns *(Covering term of reference (h))*. *(Possibly Seaham / Redcar / Whitley Bay)*

**1 February 2008** - Chair to attend the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum to raise awareness of the investigation (inc. the Focus Group) and seek views to be reported back to the Forum.

**w/c 4 February 2008 – Focus Group** - To seek the views of residents and businesses in Seaton Carew in relation to the effectiveness of previous regeneration activities in Seaton Carew and the areas future regeneration needs and opportunities *(Covering term of reference (i))*.

**w/c 11 February 2008** (Possible additional meeting) – Formal meeting of the Forum to receive:-

- (i) Evidence on current and future community facility provision in Seaton Carew and explore their role in the regeneration of the area *(Covering term of reference (c))*;

**22 February 2008\*** - Formal meeting of the Forum to receive:-

- (i) Evidence on how Hartlepool, and in particular Seaton Carew, is marketed to attract tourism and businesses and consider if there are any additional ways to raise the town / area's profile *(Covering term of reference (e))*.

*\*Only one item on this meeting relating to this investigation - Remainder of the meeting to be taken up by reports on the Corporate Plan and Youth Justice Plan.*

**28 February 2008** (Possible additional meeting) – Formal meeting of the Forum to receive evidence from relevant Department / individuals on:-

- (i) Departmental Evidence (Report / Presentation) on Seaton Carew's future regeneration needs and opportunities and the plans and strategies being implemented to address them (*Covering term of reference (g)*);
- (ii) A summary of feedback from the Chair following his attendance at the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum (*Covering term of reference (i)*);
- (iii) A summary of feedback from the Focus Group held to obtain the views of residents and local businesses in relation to the effectiveness of previous regeneration activities in Seaton Carew and the areas future regeneration needs and opportunities (*Covering term of reference (i)*);
- (iv) Evidence of key stakeholders views in relation to Seaton Carew's future regeneration needs and opportunities (*Covering term of reference (i)*); and
- (v) Examples of best practice and the lessons learnt in relation to the regeneration of coastal areas / towns, including a summary of feedback from the site visit to another Local Authority (*Covering term of reference (h)*).

**17 March 2008** – Informal meeting to consider the content of the Draft Final Report.

**20 March 2008**

**Move to the 3 April 2008** – Consideration of Draft Final Report.

**18 April 2008** – Consideration of Final Report by the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.

**12 May 2008** – Consideration of Final Report by the Cabinet.

## 9. RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 Members are recommended to agree the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's remit of the Scrutiny investigation as outlined in the report.

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

A selection of the documents outlined in section 5.3 above was used in the preparation of this report.

APPENDIX A

**PRO-FORMA TO REQUEST FUNDING TO SUPPORT  
CURRENT SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION**

|  |
|--|
| <b>Title of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:</b>   |
| <b>Title of the current scrutiny investigation for which funding is requested:</b>   |
| <b>To clearly identify the purpose for which additional support is required:</b>   |
| <b>To outline indicative costs to be incurred as a result of the additional support:</b>   |
| <b>To outline any associated timescale implications:</b>   |
| <b>To outline the ‘added value’ that may be achieved by utilising the additional support as part of the undertaking of the Scrutiny Investigation:</b> |

**To outline any requirements / processes to be adhered to in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules / Standing Orders:**

**To outline the possible disadvantages of not utilising the additional support during the undertaking of the Scrutiny Investigation:**

**To outline any possible alternative means of additional support outside of this proposal:**