

CABINET AGENDA



Tuesday 22nd January 2008

at 9.00am

in

**in the Red Room, Avondale Centre,
Dyke House, Hartlepool
(Raby Road entrance)**

MEMBERS: CABINET:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond

Councillors Hall, Hargreaves, Hill, Jackson, Payne and Tumilty

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

To receive the Records of Decision in respect of the meetings held on 21st December 2007 and 7th January 2008 (previously circulated)

4. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

4.1 Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents – Preferred Options Report – *Director of Regeneration and Planning Services*

5. KEY DECISIONS

No items

6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 6.1 Proposed Residents Permit Cost Increases – *Director of Neighbourhood Services*
- 6.2 Sea Wall Breach opposite the Green at Seaton Carew – *Director of Neighbourhood Services*
- 6.3 Local Involvement Network (LINKS) – *Director of Adult and Community Services and Director of Neighbourhood Services*
- 6.4 Draft CCTV (Closed Circuit Television Strategy)L – *Head of Community Safety and Prevention*
- 6.5 Public Convenience Provision in Hartlepool and the development of Seaton Carew Clock Tower and Shelter – *Director of Neighbourhood Services*
- 6.6 Seaton Carew Asset Management Issues – *Director of Regeneration and Planning Services, Director of Neighbourhood Services and Director of Adult and Community Services*

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / INFORMATION

- 7.1 Annual Performance Assessment of Children's Services – *Director of Children's Services*

8. REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY FORUMS

No items

CABINET REPORT

22nd January 2008



Report of: Director of Regeneration and Planning Services

Subject: TEES VALLEY JOINT MINERALS AND WASTE
DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENTS: PREFERRED
OPTIONS REPORT

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This item deals with the preparation of joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents by the Joint Strategy Unit, on behalf of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Councils. Specifically the report seeks approval of the Preferred Options Report for issue as public consultation documents for the statutory period 20 February – 2 April 2008.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The Preferred Options Report represents the second stage of preparing the Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents. The report identifies the preferred options from the previous issues and options stage and following public consultation and subsequent amendment they will be taken forward to the submission stage. The Preferred Options report provides a strategy and consequent policies for managing minerals and waste development and provides spatial planning options with dealing with these. Public consultation will allow communities, organisations and businesses to have their say on these options for the Tees Valley to deal with minerals and waste issues. The consultation will allow any further issues to be identified, and to help decide whether the preferred options are sound or whether they need amending for the next stage.

Publication of the Preferred Options Report is a statutory requirement under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The report is timetabled to be published for the required 6 weeks public consultation period 20 February – 2 April 2008 and is a Key Milestone in the Hartlepool Local Development Scheme (LDS). Publication of the Submission DPD Report in

January 2009 for a further statutory 6 weeks public consultation is the next Key Milestone.

A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Option Appraisal Report of all of the preferred options will accompany the Preferred Options Report and will be used to assess the performance of the options against baseline conditions identified within the initial Sustainability Appraisal Report.

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

The joint Development Plan Documents are of strategic significance to the Council, setting out the policies and proposals for development and use of land in relation to waste and minerals matters.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

The Waste and Minerals Development Plan Documents form part of the plans and strategies which together comprise the development plan and are part of the Council's budget and policy framework.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Cabinet - 22 January 2008

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

The Tees Valley Minerals and Waste Preferred Options Report and accompanying SA Option Appraisal Report be noted and approved for issue as public consultation documents for the statutory period 20 February – 2 April 2008.

Report of: Director of Regeneration and Planning Services

Subject: TEES VALLEY JOINT MINERALS AND WASTE
DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENTS: PREFERRED
OPTIONS REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This item deals with the preparation of a joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents by the Joint Strategy Unit, on behalf of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Councils. Specifically the report seeks approval of the Preferred Options Report for issue as public consultation documents for the statutory period 20 February – 2 April 2008.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities to prepare a number of local development documents which together comprise the Local Development Framework. Within these are statutory Development Plan Documents (DPDs). Unitary Authorities are specifically required to prepare up-to-date planning policies and proposals for development involving minerals and waste management which includes all waste generated.
- 2.2 On 12 April 2006 Cabinet approved the principle of the Joint Strategy Committee taking responsibility for the initial preparation of Joint Minerals and Waste core Strategy and Policies and Sites Development Plan Documents (DPDs) on behalf of Hartlepool Borough Council and the other four Tees Valley authorities. The Minerals and Waste DPDs will replace the minerals and waste policies in the adopted Tees Valley Structure Plan and the Hartlepool Local Plan.
- 2.3 There are two Preferred Options reports, one for each of the DPDs and they are the result of the second stage of the preparation process. The first stage was the Issues and Options Report which Cabinet approved for public consultation in April 2007. The report had been prepared by consultants Entec UK Ltd following consultation and discussion with the minerals and waste industry, officers and members of the unitary authorities, environmental interest groups and other organisations identified as having an interest in minerals and waste in the area. This report identified issues affecting minerals and waste

developments in the Tees Valley and consultees were asked to identify which options presented were the most appropriate for deal with the issues.

- 2.4 The Issues and Options Report was issued for public consultation in May 2007, with close to 1,800 organisations, companies, community group's councils and individuals contacted directly about the consultation and invited to take part. Information about the consultation exercise was also advertised on the Council websites, via the local press and drop-in events were organised at the Central Library and Seaton Carew Branch Library to allow local people to come and discuss the issues.
- 2.5 Following a 6 week consultation on the Issues and Options stage the Preferred Options Reports have been produced which subsequently identify which of the options are the preferred ones to deal with the issues. The comments received from the consultation exercise were used to prepare the Preferred Options report. The new DPDs currently in preparation will comprise:
- (i) Joint Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document, which will comprise the long-term spatial vision and overarching primary policies needed to achieve the strategic objectives containing the overall strategy and generic development policies for minerals and waste developments in the Tees Valley. The Core Strategy DPD will provide a coherent spatial strategy until 2021 and will contain measurable objectives consistent with the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East;
 - (ii) Joint Minerals and Waste Policies and Sites Development Plan Document with Proposals Map. This will identify specific minerals and waste sites and provide a framework of development control policies to access future minerals and waste applications in the Tees Valley. The Policies and Sites DPD will be in conformity with the Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Core Strategy.
- 2.6 The Preferred Options report is now being issued for public consultation for a further 6 weeks, in order for comments to be made on the options chosen by the Tees Valley Authorities.

3 THE CORE STRATEGY AND PREFERRED OPTIONS+

- 3.1 The Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options Report puts forward 7 Strategic Objectives as the preferred objectives. The only change from the Issues and Options report which suggested 6 objectives, was to make the climate change issue an objective on its own whereas previously it was included with the environment and amenity objective. The following are therefore proposed as the preferred objectives:

The Strategic Objectives

- To reduce the impacts of development on the causes of climate change and the effects of climate change on development;
- To make provision for the adequate and steady supply of minerals needed by society, while aiming for reduction in the requirement for primary extraction;
- To safeguard minerals resources from unnecessary sterilisation;
- To drive the management of waste in all waste streams up the waste hierarchy, towards the minimisation of waste production;
- To protect and enhance the environment, amenity and human health;
- To promote the use of sustainable transport;
- To provide sufficient waste management facilities in a timely and sustainable manner, in order for all waste to be managed as near as possible to its source.

Summarised Preferred Options

The Issues Report had suggested a total of 21 Key Issues and alternative options. Below is a summary of the preferred options that the Tees Valley propose to take forward in the Minerals and Waste DPDs.

- In line with national guidance the Tees Valley authorities will aim to maintain a landbank of reserves for seven years extraction of sand and gravel and ten years extraction of crushed rock for the Tees Valley sub region to meet its apportionment from the regional level;
- Land shall not be allocated, or have planning permission granted, for development which would lead to the sterilisation of important, viable mineral resources. In particular the land identified adjacent to existing rock extraction at Hart Quarry shall be safeguarded to prevent minerals operations at this site being prejudiced by other developments;
- A combination of both larger sites containing “clusters” of related waste management facilities, and smaller sites for individual facilities, shall be allocated to meet the capacity requirements set out in the Minerals and Waste DPDs. The options of either large cluster developments or only smaller individual sites were rejected in favour of this combined approaches;
- Large “cluster” sites shall be located in the traditional industrial areas around the River Tees and should seek to make use of rail and port infrastructure available in these locations where possible. Smaller “individual” sites shall be located throughout the Tees Valley;
- Wherever possible all proposed waste sites should seek to utilise previously developed land.
- A comprehensive range of Development Control policies has been selected as the preferred option. This will provide a good detail on how climate change issues, environmental protection and public amenity will

be managed. The option of them being limited in scope and leave regulation to other agencies was rejected;

- The development control policies also include the assessment of benefits that minerals and waste proposals would need to prove would outweigh any negative impacts to gain planning permission. Other issues covered by the suggested seven policies include flood risk, operational practices, transport arrangements and transport safety for other users, future land reclamation and waste audits.

4 POLICIES AND SITES DPD PREFERRED OPTIONS

- 4.1 There were no new sites put forward for new Mineral extraction in the Hartlepool Borough Council area.
- 4.2 The Minerals and Waste DPD Core Strategy identifies that additional facilities are required to enable the recovery of additional 505,000 tonnes of commercial and industrial waste during the plan period is required. Three sites have been put forward for commercial and industrial waste recovery with one being located in Hartlepool. While these sites are considered as preferred options they would also need to satisfy the normal development control policy requirements. Also this does not prejudice future sites being supported if they comply with all the relevant policies with the Minerals and Waste DPDs. Young's Recycling Group (YRG) have submitted land which they own at Graythorp Industrial Estate for consideration for a waste management facility to increase the recycling operation they undertake and this is put forward as one of the three preferred sites.
- 4.3 YRG currently send approximately 90,000 tonnes of waste a year to landfills and they consider that up to 70% of this waste is recyclable. This would correspond to around 63,000 tonnes of waste per year. A range of redundant industrial buildings are present on the site which YRG wish to utilise for contained recycling operations. The site is considered to be in a suitable location due its proximity to existing landfill sites, good road access and compatibility with the surrounding land uses (few residential properties and the existing 'bad neighbour' operations).
- 4.4 The site is located within the strategic area identified for waste management facilities identified by suggested Policy MWC7 of the Core Strategy and would be an extension of the existing recycling operations undertaken by YRG at Graythorp Industrial Estate. The proposals would utilise existing buildings on the site which are currently unused. The allocation is therefore considered also to accord with suggested Policies MWC9 and MWC10 of the Core Strategy.

- 4.5 The main issue which any planning application would need to consider is:

Ecology. The proposed site does not contain any ecologically important land but the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Ramsar site and SPA, the Seaton Dunes and Common SSSI, a National Nature Reserve and a Local Nature Reserve all lie within 1km of the site. There are also a number of other sites designated for their ecological importance within a 5km radius of the site. Any planning application will have to prove that the proposals would not have an adverse affect on the integrity of the Ramsar site SPA, SSSI or the National Nature Reserve and that the benefits of the development outweigh any harm caused to the Local Nature Reserve.

5 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

- 5.1 The Minerals and Waste DPDs are subject to a sustainability appraisal which will also incorporate an Equalities Impact Assessment. This appraisal is an ongoing process throughout the production of the documents, with appraisal reports being published to correspond to each of the key stages. These reports will advise on the sustainability of the Minerals and Waste DPDs at each stage, and provide advice on what the decisions would give the most sustainable approach as the DPDs progress to the next stage of the process.
- 5.2 A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Option Appraisal Report of all of the preferred options will accompany the Preferred Options Report and will be used to assess the performance of the options against baseline conditions identified within the Sustainability Appraisal Report

6 PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 The public consultation to the Preferred Options for the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy DPD, Policies and Sites DPD and SA Options Appraisal Report is for 6 weeks from 20 February – 2 April 2008. All comments will be used to help the Tees Valley authorities and their consultants Entec decide on whether the preferred options are “sound” or whether they need amending before the next stage; the publishing of the Submission draft of the DPDs. The submission of the DPDs to the Secretary of State is timetabled for January 2009 and will include a final 6 week public consultation on the submitted documents.
- 6.2 It is anticipated that the Minerals and Waste DPDs will pass through the various stages of preparation over the next two years including the public examination, with adoption of the documents expected in April 2010. When adopted, the Minerals and Waste DPDs will form part of each Borough's Local Development Framework (LDF).

Copies of the Preferred Options Reports and Sustainability Appraisal have been placed in the Member's Room and can be accessed online on the planning policy page of the Council's website www.hartlepool.gov.uk.

7 OFFICER ADVICE

- 7.1 The Tees Valley Minerals and Waste Preferred Options Report and accompanying SA Option Appraisal Report be noted and approved for issue as public consultation documents for the statutory period 20 February – 2 April 2008.

CABINET REPORT

22nd January 2008



Report of: Director of Neighbourhood Services

Subject: PROPOSED RESIDENTS PERMIT COST INCREASES

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider representations made concerning the new increased charges in relation to resident's only permits.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report outlines the background and history of the charges and considers the responses of residents following an extensive consultation exercise.

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

Cabinet made the original decision and the Portfolio Holder has referred the matter back to Cabinet.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non key.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio – 20th December 2007

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Cabinet's views are sought.

Report of: Director of Neighbourhood Services

Subject: PROPOSED RESIDENTS PERMIT COST INCREASES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider representations made concerning the new increased charges in relation to resident's only permits.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At a meeting of Cabinet on 24th July 2007, consideration was given to reviewing the cost of the residents parking scheme. The scheme has been operating some 8 years, and was introduced to protect residential zones, from the displacement of commuter traffic, wishing to avoid paying for parking in designated commuter car parks. The controlled parking zone has grown significantly since 1999 and as well as the town centre areas expanding, permit controls are now also in place in Seaton Carew and in areas close to the Hospital.
- 2.2 The cost of a permit has remained at a nominal £1 charge whilst the administrative and enforcement costs have been subsidised from the pay and display income the service recovers. Cabinet Members had suggested that this element of the service should be self financing and that the anticipated £80,000 costs should be met by the residents themselves. In addition the cabinet report also examined ways of reducing the administrative costs associated with the renewal process and proposed that permits should be renewed on a biennial basis.
- 2.3 Cabinet members recognised that the need to provide permit controlled zones originated from the introduction of pay and display charges and that areas closest to the town centre car parks were therefore in greatest need of protection. To this extent they proposed a two tier permit charge dependant on location. The proposed discounted central zone is outlined in **Appendix A** of this report. Members also proposed that the cost of a permit should be increased to £20 per permit but properties within the discounted zone should be subsidised by £15 effectively making the charge in this area £5.
- 2.4 The publicity of the proposed permit cost increases and the formal advertising of the public notices, led to the receipt of many objections and several signed petitions from residents. In many cases the petitions also indicated that if the

charge were to be adopted residents would rather see permit controls removed than pay the proposed higher charge. As a result and to assess if this view was reflective of the majority of permit holders, a consultation letter was sent to over 1,000 permit households in the proposed higher band. The consultation was carried out over a three week period and the results are summarised in **Appendix B** of this report.

3. CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES

- 3.1 The consultation took place with residents specifically to gauge the perceived level of opposition to the charge increases and to evaluate if the concerns and views of the petitions were specific to a location or if this was the general opinion of all residents affected by the increased costs. To this extent the consultation informed residents of the background to the proposed cost increase but asked specifically:

- 1) "would you be prepared to pay the proposed additional permit charge? "
- and
- 2) " if the charge was introduced would you wish to opt out of the scheme?"

- 3.2 Some residents considered they were unable to support either option and therefore returned their response with alternative suggestions and/ or possible improvements to the scheme which may then make the charge acceptable. This included a common theme of:

- 1) Extending the hours of enforcement
- 2) Dedicated parking bays
- 3) Capping number of permits
- 4) Two tier charge unfair

In addition several residents did opt for the scheme to be withdrawn as they felt:

- 1) The current scheme offered no benefit to them
- 2) Parking outside of their property was already difficult
- 3) The proposed costs were too expensive
- 4) They did not consider the controls to be necessary.

- 3.3 In some cases there were clear examples of resident's views being reflective of a specific parking problem, and in such cases it may be necessary to split streets to allow part enforcement. This would be acceptable provided there were clear demarcation lines denoting where permit controls were still in place. If there were a clear majority of residents in favour of this option this could be accommodated but the removal of

individual properties within a controlled zone would not be a workable option.

- 3.4 All parking enforcement controls are legal documents and to remove them would require formal advertising as part of the normal legal process. It is suggested that any location wishing to withdraw from the controlled permit zone should be phased to coincide with the expiry date of the existing permits.
- 3.5 Many of the responses were concerned at the increased car ownership since the scheme began, which had placed pressure on demand for parking space in some streets and led to calls for scheme to cap the number of permits issued. At present permits are issued to residents (provided a vehicle is registered to the property) visitors (provided they can prove a regular need to visit a property and have the consent of the resident) and open permits (which are provided to the resident have no vehicle registration details and allow the resident to provide parking for unexpected visitors). It is suggested that in order to reduce the number of permits issued, the visitor permits should be withdrawn and each resident be offered a maximum of 2 open permits per household. The operational details and permitted allowances for businesses etc should be referred for consideration to the Parking Consultative Group.
- 3.6 As a result of the consultation feedback the following options can now be considered:
- a) Approve the resident permit scheme based on an increased permit cost of £20 per annum, with a supplemented discounted central zone of £5 as shown in **Appendix A**. This would be in accordance with the Cabinet's original recommendation.
 - b) Continue to subsidise all or part of the controlled parking zone, but this would create a budget deficit.
 - c) Propose a new charge rate based on the consultation response where many residents offered to pay a reduced fee of £5, £10 or £15 per permit. Again this would create a budget pressure on the Parking Service.
 - d) The original cabinet recommendation had looked to change the renewal of permits biennially in order to further reduce administration costs. This have proved particularly unpopular with residents, particularly if the higher charge is adopted, and consideration should be given to reverting to the existing annual renewal process.
- 3.7 Many residents commented on suggested improvements to the service and in some cases even agreed to the proposed charge increase provided

certain improvements to the service could be included. The main concerns related to the enforcement hours (Monday – Saturday 8:00am – 6:00pm) and a cap on the number of permits issued, particularly in streets where only on street parking provision is available. The hours of enforcement has not been calculated within the proposed charge and any resource needed to enforce this would have an associated additional cost. Such radical changes to the service would therefore require further calculation and probable consultation before this could be pursued.

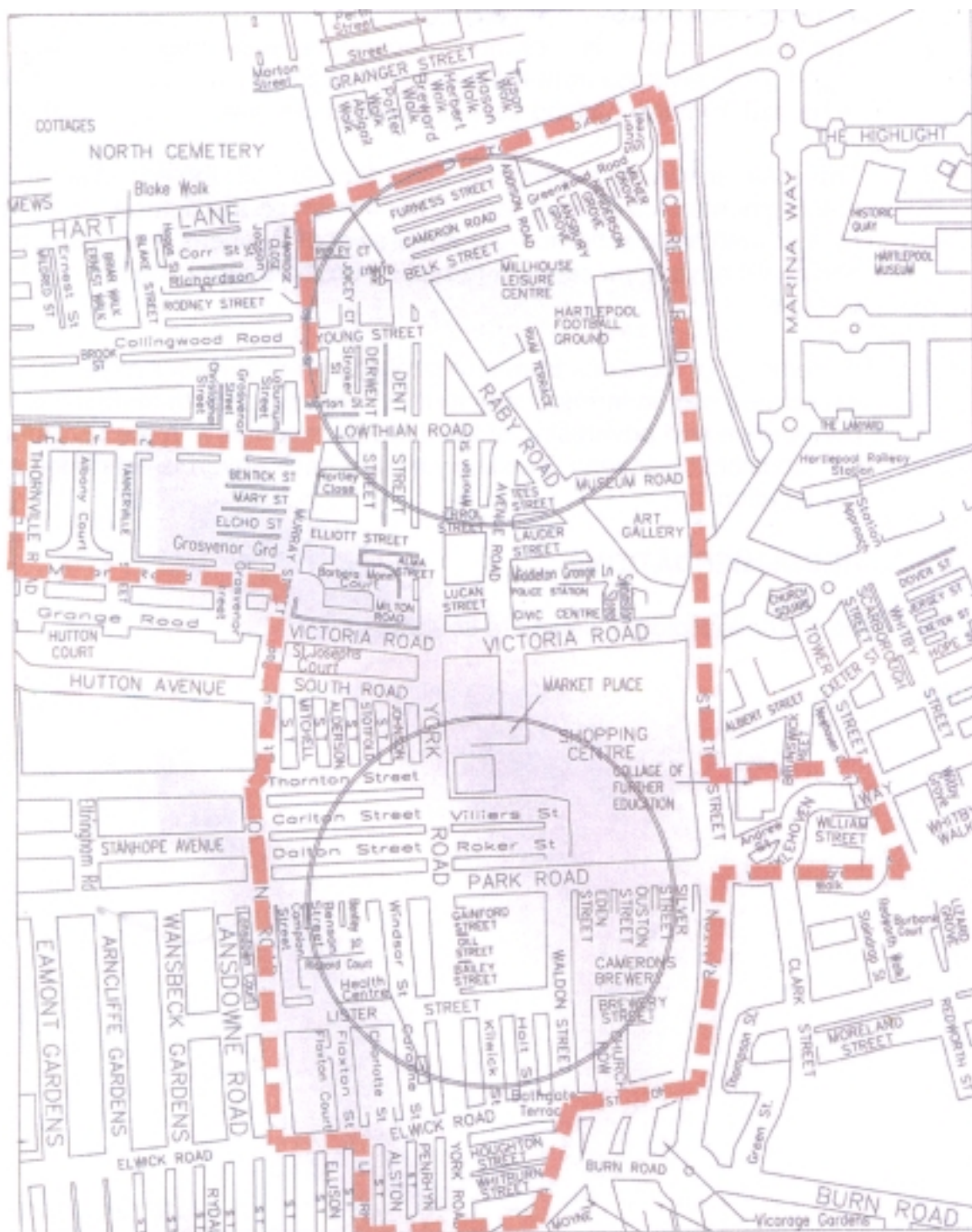
4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The administrative and enforcement costs of the resident parking zones are estimated to be £80,000 per annum. At present revenue from permit holders equates to £6,000 and historically this balance has been met from the pay and display revenue income which in recent years has shown a loss against budget.
- 4.2 The financial impact is very much dependant on the options set out in this report. Any deviance from the costs proposed by Cabinet would be required to be met from the parking services budget creating a budget pressure
- 4.3 The costs are however predominantly derived from administration and enforcement costs and are largely dependant on the number of permit holders within the scheme. Any withdrawal of locations from the controlled zones will have a subsequent reduction on the operational costs of the service.
- 4.4 The removal of locations from a controlled permit zone will have an associated cost in terms of any further consultation with residents, preparation and advertising of legal orders together with consideration of any possible objections. The likely costs of each advert is estimated at £400 per location.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Cabinet's views are sought.

Appendix A



TITLE			
APPENDIX A – Proposed Residents subsidised parking zone			
HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL		DRAWN	CHECKED
DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT		M Reed	.
HEAD OF TECHNICAL SERVICES: A. SMITH		SCALE	DATE
		N.T.S.	July 07
		DRG. NO.	REV.

Appendix B

Street	consultation s sent	consultation s returned	% of forms returned	% of returns in favour of retaining permits	% of returns wishing to opt out of permit	Neither option	Yes £20 charge	No Opt out	Comments
Arncliffe Gardens	102	91	89%	8%	92%		2 1 2 2	32 7 2 12 18 3 1 6 1 2	But with individually allocated bays But restrict permits number / cost to high But too expensive Needs core hours of scheme extending Needs bays marked Proposed cost too expensive Can not park outside house/ remove bus stops But £5 would be acceptable Non car owner - too expensive for visitors Should be £5 to all - unfair to split zones Make it one way street No consultation
TOTAL - ARNCLIFFE GARDENS	102	91	89%	8%	92%		7	84	
Clifton Avenue	69	34	49%	9%	62%	8			Proposed cost too expensive

						1			Should be full consultation with all residents
						1			Should be £2
							1		But extend hours of enforcement
								5	But £5 only
								5	But £15 only
								2	But phased increase
							1		But consider possible alternatives first
							1		Under protest
								5	
								1	Cost to expensive
								2	can not park outside house
								1	But £5 acceptable
TOTAL - CLIFTON AVENUE	69	34	49%	9%	62%	10	3	21	
Eltringham Road	12	4	33%	50%	50%		2		
								1	But lesser fee
								1	
TOTAL - ELTRINGHAM ROAD	12	4	33%	50%	50%	0	2	2	
Grange Road	131	53	40%	13%	83%		1		But extend hours
							2		If £5
									If more enforcement and assurances the cost will not increase further
							1		But limit permits
							1		
						2			But no additional fee
								7	Can not park outside house
									Would like a dedicated parking space first
								1	

								8	Too expensive
								28	
TOTAL - GRANGE ROAD	131	53	40%	13%	83%	2	7	44	
Grantham Avenue	42	29	69%	14%	83%	1			Stay the same
								12	
								5	Too expensive
								1	Can't park outside house
									No need for scheme/ no enforcement
								4	
								1	Discounted zone unfair
								1	Worries over future charge
							1		£5 - £10 more reasonable
							1		Reluctantly
							2		
TOTAL -GRANTHAM AVENUE	42	29	69%	14%	83%	1	4	24	
Stanhope Avenue	33	15	45%	27%	60%			7	
								1	
								1	Too expensive
						2			No need for controls
							2		Cost should be subsidised
							1		But cost too expensive
							1		Provided fee reduced
TOTAL - STANHOPE AVENUE	33	15	45%	27%	60%	2	4	9	
Park Road	106	61	58%	30%	66%			7	
								6	But prefer lower charge
								1	But £10 would be acceptable
								1	But two tier charge unfair
								2	If all permit amount to £20 per

							1	6	household But cost should be subsidised
								1	No need
								27	Cost should subsidised
								1	Two tier charge unfair
								5	No need / benefit for controls
						1			Would pay a reasonable permit fee
						1			Should have consulted all residents
						1			Too expensive / two tier charge unfair
TOTAL - PARK ROAD	106	61	58%	30%	66%	3	18	40	
Linden Grove	63	33	52%	36%	91%			20	
								6	No need for controls
								4	Too expensive
							3		But too expensive
							7		
							1		But should be £5
							1		But cost should be subsidised
TOTAL - LINDEN GROVE	63	33	52%	36%	91%		12	30	
Landsdowne Road	80	49	61%	14%	82%			23	
								8	Too expensive
								1	Two tier system unfair
								1	Not needed
								2	No dedicated parking space
								1	should be subsidised
									But £5 would be more reasonable
								3	

						2	5	1	Extra enforcement hours needed
							1		No change to current scheme
							1		But should be subsidised
									But should be entitled to dedicated parking space
TOTAL - LANDSDOWNE ROAD	80	49	61%	14%	82%	2	7	40	
Hutton Avenue	106	27	25%	11%	85%	1			Undecided
								7	Too expensive
								4	Not needed
								1	But £5 would be reasonable
								11	
							2		But should be entitled to dedicated parking space
							1		Cost should be subsidised
TOTAL - HUTTON AVENUE	106	27	25%	11%	85%	1	3	23	
Wansbeck Gardens	97	50	52%	12%	86%	1			If scheme is implimented - evaluate over 12 months
								1	Two tier charge unfair and should apply to all residents
								31	
								1	But £5 would be reasonable
								4	Too expensive
								1	No need/ requirement
								5	No guarantee of parking space
							3		
							3		If guarantees a parking space
TOTAL - WANSBECK GARDENS	97	50	52%	12%	86%	1	6	43	

Wilton Avenue	56	36	64%	6%	89%	2		28	No choice
								2	Two tier system unfair
							2	2	
TOTAL- WILTON AVENUE	56	36	64%	6%	89%	2	2	32	
Wilton Road	10	3	30%	0%	100%			3	
TOTAL - WILTON ROAD	10	3	30%	0%	100%	0	0	3	
Howbeck Lane	31	9	29%	0%	100%			4	Too expensive
								4	
								1	Not needed
TOTAL - HOWBECK LANE	31	9	29%	0%	100%		0	9	
Holdsforth Road	21	4	19%	50%	50%		2	2	Too expensive
TOTAL - HOLDSFORTH ROAD	21	4	19%	50%	50%		2	2	
The Cliff, Seaton Carew	31	13	42%	54%	46%		1	3	But £5
								3	Too expensive
							3		
							2		If hours of scheme extended
									If hours of scheme extended
							1		and permits limited
TOTAL - THE CLIFF, SEATON CAREW	31	13	42%	54%	46%	0	7	6	

North Road, Seaton Carew	16	10	63%	0%	100%			5 5	Not needed
TOTAL - NORTH ROAD, SEATON CAREW	16	10	63%	0%	100%	0	0	10	
The Green , Seaton Carew	50	29	58%	28%	69%			14 4 1 1	Scheme hours need extending Costs should be subsidised Cant run business at proposed new rates Some charge increase if scheme hours extended scheme hours need extending plus cap on permits
						1			But would prefer £10 But would prefer £15
TOTAL -THE GREEN, SEATON CAREW	50	29	58%	28%	69%	1	8	20	
Queen Terrace, Seaton Carew	13	6	46%	0%	17%			1 5	Scheme hours need extending + 2 tier charge unfair
TOTAL - QUEENS TERRACE, SEATON CAREW	13	6	46%	0%	17%		0	6	
Victoria Street	19	6	32%	33%	67%		2	2 1 1	If scheme improved Hours need extending first Two tier charge unfair

TOTAL - VICTORIA STREET, SEATON CAREW	19	6	32%	33%	67%		2	4	
Station Lane	20	12	60%	8%	92%		1		If scheme improved
								4	
								2	Too expensive
								1	No need for controls
								3	Scheme does not work
								1	But £5 would be acceptable
TOTAL - STATION LANE, SEATON CAREW	20	12	60%	8%	92%		1	11	
Kendall Road	2	1	50%	0%	100%			1	But too expensive
TOTAL - KENDALL ROAD	2	1	50%	0%	100%	0	0	1	

CABINET REPORT

22nd January 2008



Report of: Director of Neighbourhood Services

Subject: SEA WALL BREACH OPPOSITE THE GREEN AT SEATON CAREW

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To detail the breach/promenade collapse incident on 27 November 2007 resulting in injuries to a member of the public and possible insurance claim.

To seek approval for the wall toe protection works in the budget sum of £98k.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report contains details of the incident which occurred to the sea wall breach occurred on 27 November 2007, together with the recommendation for further work.

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

The incident could result in a significant insurance claim for personal injury against the Council.

The Council has a statutory obligation as the Coast Protection Authority to ensure that the protection structures are maintained in a safe and acceptable condition.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

This is not a key decision.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Cabinet 22nd January 2008

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

That Cabinet approve the works and the proposed funding arrangements and includes these recommendations in the 2008/9 Budget Report to be considered by Council.

Report of: Director of Neighbourhood Services

Subject: SEA WALL BREACH OPPOSITE THE GREEN
AT SEATON CAREW

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To detail the breach/promenade collapse incident on 27 November 2007 resulting in injuries to a member of the public and possible insurance claim.
- 1.2 To seek approval for the wall toe protection works in the budget sum of £98k.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A collapse of the promenade due to a sea wall breach occurred on 27 November 2007, together with the recommendation for further work.

3. EVENT HISTORY

- 3.1 A call was received at Richard Court at 7pm on 27th November 2007 indicating that someone had fallen into a hole and had been trapped for some time until rescued.
- 3.2 An inspection of the coast protection structure found a void under the southernmost steps to the beach opposite The Green, Seaton (on the lower promenade previously the North Shelter area) with a hole on the promenade across the southernmost stair head, approximately 1.8m along the promenade and 900mm wide.
- 3.3 Inspection of the hole from the promenade showed the void with approximately 3 paving flags (900 x 600) in hole with the sand backfill grading down steeply to the horizontal foundation floor slab 3m down projecting onto beach.
- 3.4 Initial inspection of south side of steps from the beach showed that the foundation slab had dropped approximately 150mm from stair walls and the beach sand levels was a further 150mm below the slab bottom. (Slab is approximately 200mm thick). Step walls and treads were still in position but cracked at each end.

- 3.5 A further inspection of the sea wall southwards from the steps revealed the adjacent beach level to be approximately 300mm below the wall foundation level with a vertical wall of sand exposed to the sea below the foundation to the beach over a wall length of about 20m. This was very serious as the 4.4m high mass concrete wall could have toppled over if the 'sand wall' washed out from under the foundations.

4. TEMPORARY WORKS (MAKING SAFE) ON 28 NOVEMBER 2007 AND COSTS

- 4.1 The day following the incident staff carried out the works indicated below:

- attempted to push sand and gravel underneath the undemined step walls and slab;
- removed rock armour from opposite the Staindiffe and carried it to the steps and wall to attempt to protect them from further undermining and breach enlargement by erosion of the sand fill to the back of the wall;
- packed sand and gravel into voids in placed rock armour.

- 4.2 On 29th November 2007, staff attended the site to re-seal steps after the night tide had washed out the sand. The gaps between the step wall and the foundation slab were packed with concrete and more rock armour was placed around the bottom of the steps and walls. Further inspections showed that fortunately, the breach hole had not enlarged behind the wall.

- 4.3 On 30th November additional gravel and cobbles were used to temporarily "armour" the toe of the steps in order to prevent further undermining and washout of sand from the promenade area.

- 4.4 On 3rd and 4th December, all gaps were temporarily plugged with bags of concrete prior to filling the cavity with pumped ready mixed concrete.

- 4.5 The damaged paving was replaced on 6th/7th December.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS TO DATE

- 5.1 Approximate cost to date £8k.

6. SHORT TERM FURTHER WORKS AND COSTS

- 6.1 The measures taken to date are very much a temporary stop gap and far from permanent or sufficient. In the long term works must be put in place to:

	Budget Cost
• seal the toe of steps and extend bottom flight	£20k
• rock armour the exposed toe of the sea wall to prevent foundation undermining, toppling failure or backfill washout and breach failure (Short term length affected approximately 40m)	£31k
• replace rock armour 'robbed' from armour opposite the Staincliffe Hotel	£16k
• place rock armour along Coach Park wall over a length of 65m as this has recently suffered similar erosion of the beach causing toppling of approximately 10m of seawall.	£23k
Total	£90k

- 6.2 This estimate together with temporary measures outlined earlier in the report total £98k.

- 6.3 The Council has previously determined that any emergency Coast Protection works, which cannot be funded from the annual revenue budget, will need to be funded from General Fund balances, subject to the subsequent reinstatement of General Fund balances. On this basis it suggested that the cost of the repairs identified in this report should be funded from General Fund Balances, as these works need to be completed in 2007/08.

- 6.4 Members will recall that the provisional 2008/09 budget proposals approved by Cabinet on 21st December 2007 include a pressure of £250,000 for an increase in the ongoing Coast Protection budget. Cabinet's final budget proposals will be determined on 4th February 2008 and then referred to Council on 14th February 2008. On the assumption that this pressure is approved it is suggested that part of this amount should be earmarked to repay the General Fund balances used in 2007/08 to fund emergency Coast Protection repairs. This proposal will protect the level of General Fund balances, whilst still increasing the resources available for Coast Protection works in 2008/09. In the event that Members final budget proposals include a lower increase in the additional resources allocated for Coast Protection works then this proposals may need to be reviewed.

7. LONG TERM

- 7.1 Because of sea level rise, given the seemingly escalating degree of beach lowering witnessed in the recent past, there is no doubt that

very significant lengths of sea wall fronting sand beaches, particularly at Seaton, will be similarly affected in the short to medium term.

- 7.2 Indeed, even those walls protected in 2006 with the very minimum of rock armour will require this rock armour to be reinforced as beach levels continue to fall.
- 7.3 This will be an ongoing and expensive problem for all of the walls along the Hartlepool frontage which are founded on sand at quite shallow depths. (This is the majority of walls at Seaton).
- 7.4 The original Shoreline Management Plan supported the preparation of a strategy study for this section of coastline. Funding for this has recently been secured from Defra and the procurement process for a specialist consultant is currently being progressed.
- 7.5 The strategy study is very relevant to the current situation as it will address the full range of technical, environmental, climatic and financial issues, to produce a more detailed framework for ongoing maintenance and future viable capital works. It will however take between eighteen months and two years to produce a final output report

8. INSURANCE CLAIM

- 8.1 Because the lady who fell into the hole sustained injuries there is the potential for an insurance claim which cannot be quantified at this point in time. This is being dealt with separately by the Insurance Section.

9. RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 That Cabinet approve the works and the proposed funding arrangements and includes these recommendations in the 2008/9 Budget Report to be considered by Council.

CABINET REPORT

22 January 2008



Joint Report of: Director of Adult and Community Services and
Director of Neighbourhood Services

Subject: LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORKS (LINKS)

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Cabinet on the progress with procurement of the LINKs host with neighbouring authorities, and to seek Cabinet views on how to proceed.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report outlines the current position regarding procurement with the neighbouring authorities, and the options for procurement in the light of Stockton and Redcar and Cleveland opting out of the Teeswide procurement process.

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

The project has town-wide impact.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non-Key

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Cabinet 22 January 2008

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Cabinet are requested to decide whether to procure the LINKs host with Middlesbrough or to procure a host exclusively in Hartlepool.

Joint Report of: Director of Adult and Community Services and Director of Neighbourhood Services

Subject: LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORKS (LINKS)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on the progress with procurement of the LINKs host with neighbouring authorities, and to seek Cabinet views on how proceed.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Cabinet approved on 1st October 2007 an approach to a Teeswide procurement of the host for the LINKs. A copy of the original report is attached as **Appendix 1**. The advantages of procuring the host on a Teeswide basis appear at paragraph 7 of this report.
- 2.2 The Steering Group to procure and develop a Hartlepool LINK has been set up in accordance with Cabinet's previous approval at its meeting on 12th November 2007. The first meeting will be held on 30 January 2008.
- 2.3 Further guidance has been received regarding the set up of the LINKs, attached as **Appendix 2**.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton Borough Councils have subsequently decided to re think their original approach of procuring the Links host service on a Teeswide basis, and are instead considering whether they wish to invite tenders on a Teeswide or on a local authority basis. Middlesbrough are proposing to still progress with OJEU restricted procurement for a single LINKs host organisation. If Local Authorities wanted to still collaborate and seek to procure a joint host Middlesbrough are still happy to procure on behalf of the Tees local authorities a single host, but not a series of individual hosts. If Local Authorities chose the option of a separate LINK in their local authority area they will need to undertake their own procurement.
- 3.2 It should be noted that Middlesbrough has received a fairly high level of interest for potential bidders before they go to advert. Hartlepool has also received some interest.

- 3.3 The level of funding from the Dept of health to provide and run a Links service in Hartlepool is only £99,000, which is less than originally anticipated. It is essential that this investment is used in the most effective and efficient manner.
- 3.4 If Stockton and Redcar were to drop out of the Teeswide procurement option then both Middlesbrough and Hartlepool would lose the potential advantages of a single host dealing with health organisations who are structured on a North Tees and Hartlepool basis (e.g. the NHS Trust) and Teeswide basis (e.g. Mental Health; ambulance).
- 3.5 In addition to the points already mentioned there are significant capacity issues for the Council both in the development of the specification for how Hartlepool's LINK will operate and the actual procurement of the LINK (including the tendering and evaluation processes). To complete this whole process by April 2008 presents a severe test for the Procurement Section and the Adult and Community Services Department. However this may not be something which can be avoided. There may also be a risk that procuring the single authority host and Links service would require more funding than has been allocated by the Dept of health.
- 3.6 The statutory requirement to have a Links service operational from April 2008 is still in place and the Department of Health have stated that either a LINK host must be put in place or the Local Authority must put some other measures in place. In Hartlepool this could, initially be by using existing forums.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Cabinet are requested to decide whether to continue with the original decision to procure a joint Links host with Middlesbrough if both Redcar and Cleveland pull out of the arrangement or to proceed on a single LA Links host procurement option for Hartlepool.

CABINET REPORT

1st October 2007

Report of: Director of Adult and Community Services

Subject: LINKS (Local Involvement Networks)

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To brief Cabinet of the requirement to introduce a Local Involvement Network within Hartlepool and to seek approval to explore a joint contracting arrangement with neighbouring authorities.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report highlights the policy context to the development of LINKs, a summary of the current guidance, which includes:

- The role of LINKs
- The role of the host organisation
- Proposed procurement process
- Role of the expert Advisory Team

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

The project has town wide impact

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non Key

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Cabinet 1st October 2007

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

- i) To note the contents of the report and to support the development of LINKs in Hartlepool
- ii) To agree to ring-fence the LINKs grant allocation
- iii) To agree to explore collaborative commissioning arrangements
- iv) To delegate the procurement process to the Director of Adult and Community Services

Report of: Director of Adult and Community Services

Subject: LINKS (LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORKS)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To brief Cabinet of the requirement to introduce a Local Involvement Network within Hartlepool and to seek approval to explore a joint contracting arrangement with neighbouring authorities.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Department of Health have agreed to the Development of Local Involvement Network (LINKs) to improve Service User and Public Engagement in Health and Social Care.
- 2.2 Local Government has an absolutely vital role in delivering improved health and well being and there is an ongoing debate taking place in Government about the role of people that use services, Local Communities and Local Authorities in shaping the delivery of public services.
- 2.3 Local Government is committed to empowering citizens to give them more confidence and more opportunities to influence public services in ways that are relevant and meaningful to them and in ways that will make a real difference to services. If we are to create a truly people user led Health and Social Care Services that are centred around the needs of both individuals and communities, it is essential that services are responsive to what the people using them want and need and are accountable to Service Users and Local Communities. The aim of the LINKs Network is to create a system where more people are empowered to be active partners in the Health and Social Care rather than passive recipients.
- 2.4 A Stronger Local Voice published in July 2006 set out the Government's plan to achieve these aims. As part of the plans, Local Authorities with Social Services responsibilities will have a statutory duty to make arrangements for the establishment of Local Involvement Networks. These LINKs will bring together local people and organisations and will provide flexible ways for communities to engage with Health and Social Care organisations to help shape services and priorities in ways that best suit the communities and the people in them. They will gather the views and experience of the people within their areas on all the Health and Social Care Services they use, building on existing community networks and the work of Patient and Public Involvement Forms (PPI).

- 2.5 Funding for the LINKs will be provided from Central Government to all relevant Authorities. The Local Authorities, where appropriate, will contract with local organisations such as voluntary and community groups or social enterprises to identify the most appropriate arrangements for hosting and providing support to the LINKs. Given the skill requirements of support organisations, it is likely they will be chiefly drawn from local non-profit organisations with skills in community development and networking.
- 2.6 The new system aims to simplify and strengthen the current system by being able to hold NHS and Social Care Commissioners to account and refer services to overview and scrutiny committees.
- 2.7 LINKs are expected to become operational from 1 April 2008, however this date is not definite as Royal assent to the bill has not yet been given.

3. CURRENT GUIDANCE

- 3.1 The Department of Health published two documents on 8 August 2007:
- (i) 'Planning your Local Involvement Networks' which incorporates the findings of LINKs early adopter sites. It includes the issues that local communities need to think about to provide a LINKs, the list of actions Councils need to take and who needs to be involved in establishing LINKs, the resources required and how such a network could work.
 - (ii) Contracting a host organisation for your LINKs.
- 3.2 **Appendix 1** provides the Department of Health briefing document related to these two documents.
- 3.3 Key points to note are that each LINK will be supported by a host organisation that is contracted by the Local Authority. **Appendix 2** planning your Local LINKs highlights the membership of LINKs.
- 3.3 LINKs will have a role in:
- (i) Promoting and supporting the involvement of people in the commissioning, provision and scrutiny of Local Health and Social Care Services.
 - (ii) Obtaining the views of people about their need for, and experience of Local Health and Social Care Services.
 - (iii) Enabling people to monitor and review the commissioning and provision of care services.
 - (iv) Raise the concerns of local people with those responsible for commissioning, providing, managing and scrutinising services.

- 3.4 The details of the policies of LINKs will be provided in future regulations.
- 3.5 Local Authorities are expected to commence the procurement of host organisations once the bill is given Royal assent.
- 3.6 It is recommended that Local Authorities and Interested stakeholders begin to engage with local groups and interested individuals now and that they begin to identify a working model for the LINKs at the same time as preparing for the procurement process.

4. ROLE OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- 4.1 The role of the Local Authorities is as follows:
- Local authorities with social services responsibilities will be under a statutory duty to establish LINKs to specified standards, with guidance to ensure consistency across local authorities;
 - Funding to support LINKs will be as a targeted (not ring-fenced) specific grant;
 - Local authorities will be strongly encouraged to involve local people and organisations in process of awarding the first contract to support LINKs;
 - Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be encouraged to hold their executives to account for how this is done.
- 4.2 Local Authority need to progress the following:-
- (i) Local Authority Officers and Councillors need to stimulate interest in LINKs with both potential members and participants and with potential host organisations. These could be via workshops, meetings, information on Council Website and Council Newsletter.
 - (ii) Entering into a contract with a host (for three years) and performance managing the contract.
 - (iii) OSC (Overview and Scrutiny Committees) within the Local Authorities have a role in scrutinising how the contracting process was undertaken and ensuring best value is achieved.
 - (iv) The OSC may commission a LINK to undertake work on its behalf.
 - (v) Local Authorities and LINK may agree to pool information or work together to gather the views and experiences of local people and groups regarding particular health and social care services.

5. ROLE OF LINKS

5.1 The role of LINKs is as follows:

- Primarily a network to represent the views and concerns of the whole community in relation to health and social care services;
- Will need to demonstrate good governance and accountability;
- The LINK will be held to account for its activities by the local community;
- Provision of evidence of active outreach and engagement with different local groups and communities;
- Demonstrate the impact it has had on changes to local health and social care provision to better meet locally identified needs;
- Provision of regular information to the community;
- Powers to enter health and social care premises (with exceptions) to observe and assess the nature and quality of services {not all LINK members will have this role};
- Duty to co-operate and co-ordinate activities with the regulators;
- Engage in monitoring through actively seeking views directly from individuals and groups, indirectly from advocates and representatives, complaints, PALS, surveys, comment cards, etc;
- Report annually to the Secretary of State for Health on activities and outcomes;
- A LINK may decide to review how local commissioners are communicating with the public;
- LINKs will have a strong relationship with all the decision makers in health and social care and will assess community needs, decide priorities and influence commissioning decisions;
- LINKs will have powers to:
 - enter specified premises and assess services
 - request information and receive a response within a specified timescale
 - make reports and recommendations and receive a response within a specified timescale
 - refer matters to an OSC and receive a response;
- To have diverse membership including people with learning disabilities, sensory impairments, from all age groups and different ethnic groups;
- LINKs may wish to set up special interest groups e.g. mental health services; services for children and young people or focus on an acute trust;
- LINKs may wish to join with neighbouring LINKs on issues that span their borders, or network regionally and/or nationally;
- LINKs will not have a primary role in relation to services for children but will need to develop a relationship to children's trusts;
- If LINKs are unable to resolve a social care issue they may work with front line councillors using the "community call for action" process;

- LINKs will need to understand the structure of OSCs within the local authority;
- LINKs will provide a valuable source of intelligence and evidence based information to commissioners; OSCs and health and social care providers;
- LINKs will want to develop effective relationships with local strategic partnerships and similar groups and networks.
- Promoting and supporting the involvement of local people from across the community to influence commissioning, provision and scrutiny of health and social care services;
- Obtaining views of local people about their health and social care needs;
- Enabling local people to share their skills and experience in order to influence the development and improvement of local services;
- Supporting people within the community to make their voices heard including those who find it difficult to participate in traditional ways or choose not to;
- Act as a hub within a network of user led and community based groups, channelling views and information;
- LINKs will set their own agenda and focus on issues of concern to local people and seek to influence change;
- LINKs will be required to report their activities and expenditure to the public, to health and social care bodies, the relevant local authority, the Secretary of State for Health, and other interested organisations;
- Although the functions will be set out in legislation how they are undertaken will not be prescribed;
- LINKs may carry out additional work commissioned and funded by the NHS and/or OSCs if they wish.

6. GETTING READY FOR LINKS

6.1 The Department of Health policy document policy highlights the core responsibilities of the LINKs host organisation together with the proposed tender requirements for Local Authority to follow. The host and LINKs responsibility are as follows:

- Holding LINK finances (decision on expenditure will be responsibility of the LINK not the “host”)
- Recruiting members to LINKs;
- Co-ordination, support and promotion of LINKs priorities; work plan and activities
- Provision of advice and support;
- Data management and record keeping;
- Dealing with LINK communication and correspondence;
- Guide the LINK access to the views of the whole community;
- Identifying quality standards for delivery of support;

- Enabling effective working relationships with local partners
- Ensuring awareness and compliance with equality legislation;
- Produce a six monthly report to the Local Authority;
- Help LINK members demonstrate that they are able to comply with a standard code of conduct;
- Ensuring training and development is provided for LINK members and that members do not undertake activities they do not have the skills to carry out.

6.2 Funding to Local Authorities will be via a specific grant to cover:

- (i) Local Authority Contract Management Costs
- (ii) Host Organisation support function costs
- (iii) LINKs expenditure costs

6.3 It is suggested by the Department of Health that the amount given to the Local Authorities (as yet undetermined) is ring-fenced by the Local Authority for the procurement of LINKs and the host.

7. LOCAL PROCUREMENT ARRANGEMENTS

7.1 In view of the requirement for Local Authorities to procure a host organisation, it is proposed that there are a number of advantages for Hartlepool Borough Council to explore entering into a collaborative commissioning arrangement with neighbouring authorities.

7.2 The procurement process would be more cost efficient if undertaken and led by one Local Authority, with a strong proviso that each local area would be adequately represented in the organisation of the LINKs, for example by having local persona in the LINKs.

7.3 The indicative allocations for the early development of LINKs is only £10,000 to support the contracting process. Individual Local Authorities will receive a financial allocation, yet to be determined based on a population basis, therefore Hartlepool needs to look at how best this funding can be used to provide a good quality local LINKs service.

7.4 The administration and overhead costs of the host could be minimised and more cost effectively managed by one organisation, enabling more resources to be interested in the delivery of the core LINKs functions, namely engagement.

7.5 Cabinet approval is sought therefore to explore and pursue this option. It is felt to be the most effective way to provide this service. A draft timetable is attached **Appendix 3**.

- 7.5 It is recommended that the procurement process of delegated to the Director of Adult and Community Services.

8 EXPERT ADVISORY TEAMS

- 8.1 The Local Authority is able to book placements with the Department of Health LINKs Expert Advisory Team to help us prepare for LINKs. We can receive up to three days support between September 2007 and March 2008 to help us:

- (i) Understand the rationale for LINKs and Impact
- (ii) Begin discussions with local people and groups about how to develop the local LINK
- (iii) Understand the skills required from the host organisations and the timescales for contracts with a suitable host.
- (iv) Establish good relationships between the executive, overview and scrutiny, the host and the LINKs.

- 8.2 The three days are split as follows:

- (i) Preparation Day
- (ii) Delivery days – advisors providing practical support. Each Local Authority needs to identify the support required locally.

- 8.3 It is proposed that these 3 free days consultancy are booked to explore how we can begin the LINKs development process in Hartlepool.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Cabinet are requested to note the contents of this report and to agree:

- i) That the LINKs grant is ring-fenced to the procurement and provision of a LINKs service
- ii) That the collaboratively contracting commissioning arrangements can be pursued per paragraph 7.1 above.
- iii) That the procurement process is delegated to Director of Adult and Community Services.

Local Involvement Networks explained



What is a Local Involvement Network (LINK)?

A LINK will be a network of local people, organisations and groups that want to make care services better.

A LINK will give you the chance to say what you think and to suggest ideas to help improve services. They will be expected to represent everyone. A LINK will also work with care professionals to make sure your views are heard.

There will be a LINK in every Local Authority area that has social services responsibility.

LINKs will encourage and support local people to get involved in how local care services are planned and run. They will listen to local people about their needs and about their experiences of services.

LINKs will look at all health and social care services in an area that are funded by taxpayers. It will not matter whether they are provided by the NHS, a local authority, a private company, a social enterprise or a charity.

LINKs will feedback this information to the people responsible for commissioning, providing, managing and checking up on health and social care services so that things can change for the better.

LINKs will not take over from groups that are already working for the community. Instead, because LINKs will bring together the whole community and will have certain powers, they should make it easier for groups and individuals to be heard.

LINKs around the country will have the same powers and responsibilities, but each LINK will be set up in a way that works best for its local community.



Why are LINKs being set-up?

There have been changes over the past few years in how health and social care services are planned and run. All of these changes aim to make services better. People are being offered more choice in the services they get and who provides them. Health and social care services are working more closely together. Services are also trying to listen more to people who use them about their needs.

There have been different ways for people to have a say in health services over the years. In 2003, the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health was set up. Their job has been to support different ways for people to have a say in how health services are run. They support Patients' Forums. There is a Patients' Forum in every NHS Trust and Primary Care Trust.

In 2005, the Department of Health looked at how this was working. In 2006, the White Paper 'Our health, our care, our say' was published.

It said that people should have 'more choice and a louder voice'. It said that local communities should be able to have more say in the way in which the whole health and social care system is designed and works.



Ideas about how to do this were published in July 2006 in a report called 'A Stronger Local Voice'.



It said that there needed to be new organisations called Local Involvement Networks – known as LINKs. These will be a new way for people to have a say in how health and social care services are planned and run.

LINKs will replace Patients' Forums and the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health will stop.

What will LINKs do?

The job of a LINK is to:

- Give everyone the chance to say what they think about their local care services – what is working well and what is not so good
- Give people the chance to check how care services are planned and run
- Feedback what people have said about services so that things can change for the better

What Powers will LINKs have?

LINKs will have a range of powers so that they can say how local services should improve. They will be able to:

- Make reports and recommendations and get a reply within a set amount of time
- Ask for information and get a reply within a set amount of time
- Go into some types of services to see what they do
- Tell elected politicians on an Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) what they have found and get a response.



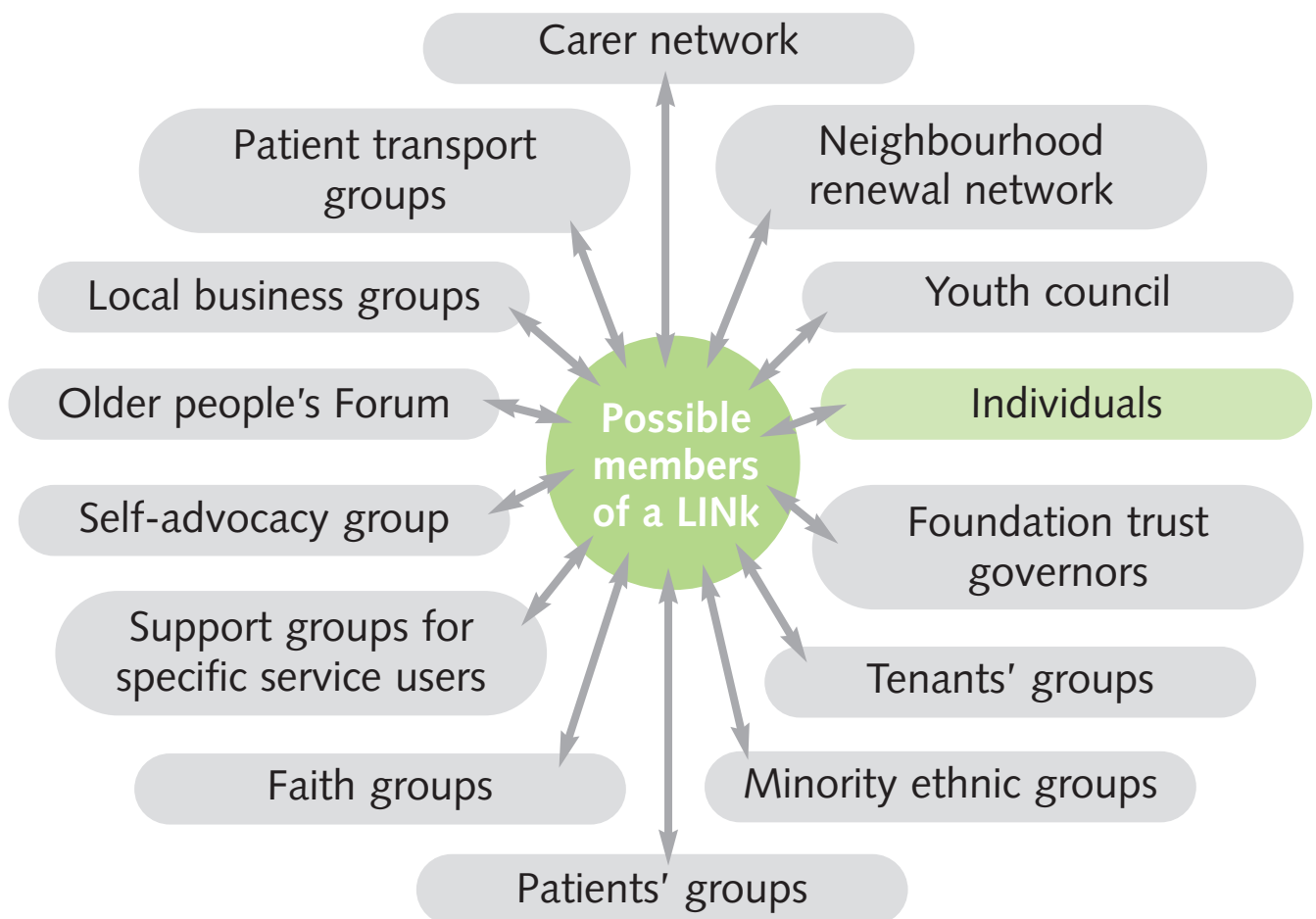
Who can be part of a LINK?

Anyone can be part of LINK. A LINK should be able to represent everyone in the community. This means all of the different groups and types of people that make up the local population will be able to join. They should also be able to give people who do not usually have a say the chance to give their views.

LINKs members will include:

- User-led organisations
- Local voluntary and community sector organisations
- Individual people

BUT ... you do not have to be a member of a LINK to get involved or have your say.



How will LINKs be set up?

The rules about LINKs and how they will work are part of the **Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act**. In the back page of this booklet, there is a poster that shows the steps to setting up a LINK.



Host



LINK



The Act received Royal Assent in October 2007. Under the Act Patients' Forums will be abolished in March 2008 and LINKs will start being established from April 2008.

Each **Local Authority** will get money from the Department of Health. They will use this money to pay a **host organisation**. The host will be responsible for setting up the **LINK** and giving practical support to keep it going. If a host is not in place by April 2008, the Local Authority will have a duty to make sure that LINKs activities are carried out until the host is recruited.

What will the Host do?

The job of the host organisation is to support the LINK to do its work. The LINK will need to decide what work it does and when.

The host might be a local community or voluntary organisation. They will have shown that they understand the local community and are good at working with groups and people.

The job of the host will be to:

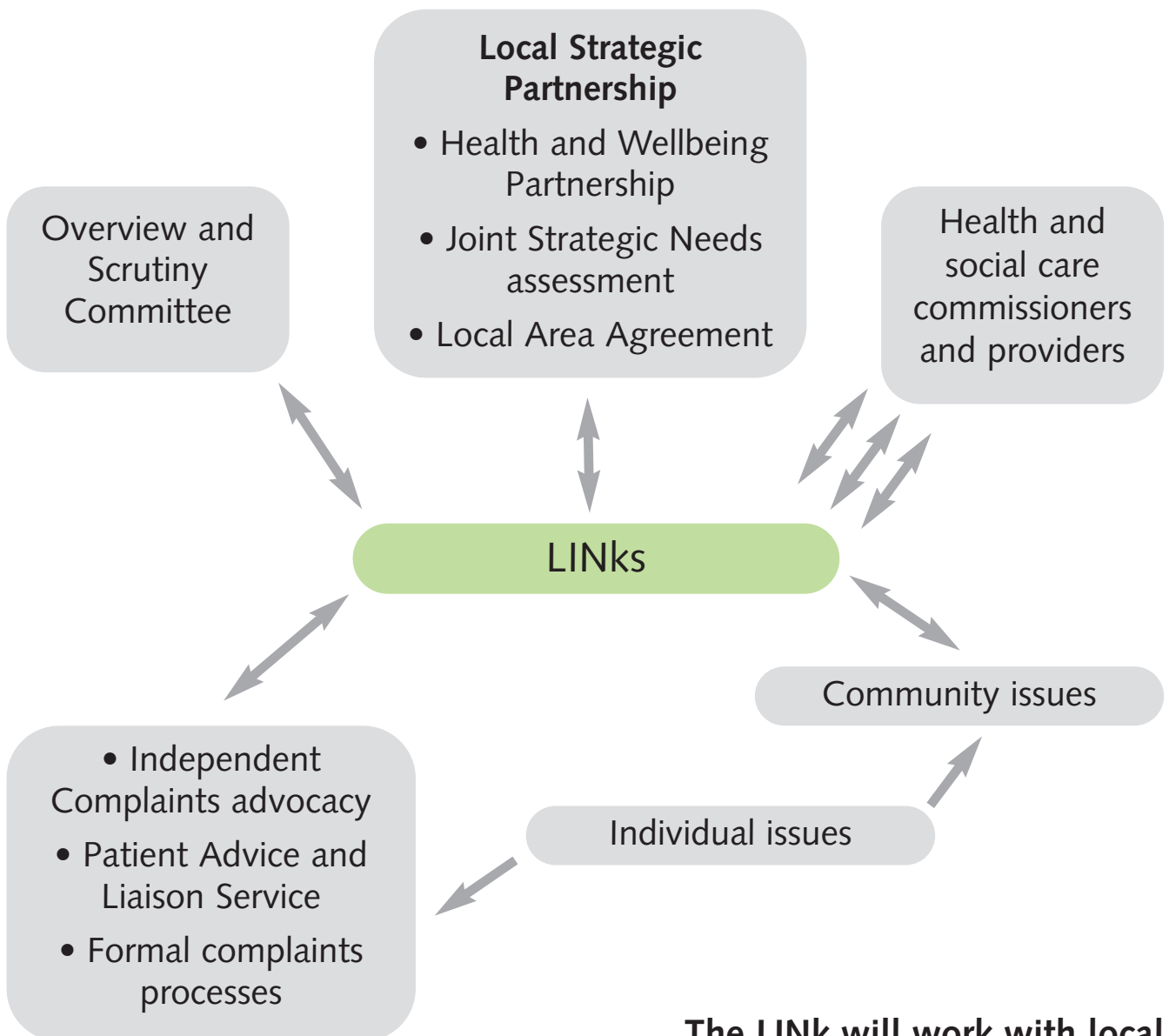
- Help the LINK to set up, for example by:
 - telling the community that a LINK is being started
 - holding meetings so people can come and hear about what the LINK will do

- encouraging local groups, organisations and individuals to get involved, especially those who are not always heard

- Work with local people and groups to set up how the LINK will work locally and how it will decide what to do. This will include the rules about:
 - how decisions are made
 - how people can get involved
 - what happens if people do not agree about things
 - how people can have a say as a group or as an individual person
- Hold the money for the LINK and be responsible for keeping records of how money is spent



- Regularly letting local people know what the LINK is doing and asking them for their views
- Keep good records of what the LINK does and who is involved
- Provide advice and support to the LINK
- Make regular reports to the Local Authority about how it is supporting the LINK. Help the LINK to write a report every year about what they have done and how the money has been spent
- Work with other strategic organisations and partnerships locally



The LINK will work with local organisations and partnerships

Getting started

To make sure that LINKs are able to build on the work of Patients' Forums from the start, a lot of work is taking place to get ready.

There has been an Early Adopter Programme in nine places across England that have been trying out how LINKs might work. The lessons from these places have been used to produce national guidance on the things communities and local authorities need to do to prepare for LINKs.

Local authorities and communities can:

- look for organisations to become a host for their LINK
- plan exactly how and when their LINK will be set up
- tell people in the community about LINKs
- bring together people from all the important groups that will need to work to make LINKs happen. They can start to think about how things will work in their local area

Things that Local Authorities and communities need to be thinking about as they plan their LINK:

- What do we know about the local area, the groups and organisations and what local people think is important?
- What do we know about the different ways that people like to be involved?
- What could make it hard to set up a good LINK in this area? For example, is it a rural area, is transport difficult, are there lots of different ethnic groups to include; are there lots of groups who do not get a good deal from care services?
- What networks are there already working in this local area?
- What are the things we do not know about and how can we best find them out?



More information?

If you would like more information about LINKs then go to one of these websites:



www.dh.gov.uk/patientpublicinvolvement



The National Centre
for Involvement

www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk
Register on the Home page



www.cppih.org

Go to the Knowledge Management System (KMS)

Go to Changing NHS: LINKs, Early Adopter pages

Care Services Improvement Partnership **CSIP**

www.csip.org.uk

Search for 'Local Involvement Networks'

The Steps to Setting up a LINK



Local Authority talks to local people and organisations about what they would want from their local LINK.



Local Authority gets money from Government for a LINK.



Local Authority tenders for a host organisation deciding which organisation is the best one to set up and support the LINK.



The Host works with local people and organisations to set up and support their local LINK.

They decide how it should run and the support it will need from the host.

The LINK starts to work!



Supported by the host, the LINK:

- Gives everyone a chance to say what they think about their local care services.
- Checks how care services are planned and run.
- Feeds back what people have said about services so that things can improve.

The Local Authority and the LINK check regularly to see how well the Host is working to support the LINK.



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CABINET

22nd January 2008

Report of: Head of Community Safety & Prevention

Subject: Draft CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) Strategy

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Members of Cabinet on progress made in developing a CCTV Strategy for the town.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report gives brief details of the CCTV camera system in Hartlepool and revenue funding sources. The draft strategy attached to the report identifies several issues requiring further consideration, which are outlined in the report.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

CCTV is a community safety issue.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non-key

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Cabinet 22nd January 2008

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Consideration and comment on the issues outlined in the report.

Report of: Head of Community Safety & Prevention

Subject: Draft CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) Strategy

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Members of Cabinet on progress made in developing a CCTV Strategy for the town, and propose a wayforward to finalise the strategy.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Hartlepool's CCTV system was initially developed in the 1990's, with funding from the Home Office and Single Regeneration Budgets (SRB).
- 2.2 Since this time, the system has continued to expand utilising a variety of capital funding sources, including Hartlepool Council, New Deal for Communities, Home Office and private developer's funding. There are now more than 70 permanent camera positions across the town, which are monitored 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. There are an additional 11 cameras which record continuously, but are monitored periodically.
- 2.3 Many of the cameras are situated in strategic positions, covering the town centre streets and car parks and out of town shopping parades. However other sites such as some residential streets and Council assets (e.g. Mill House Leisure Centre, Rossmere Park, Newburn Bridge Industrial Estate) also have cameras.
- 2.4 The ongoing cost of operating the CCTV system is the responsibility of Hartlepool Council, with contributions to funding currently received from New Deal for Communities and one private developer (as part of a section 106 planning agreement). These contributions are time limited.
- 2.5 Cameras act as a deterrent to criminal and anti-social behaviour, and, on occasions provide vital evidence for the Police and other enforcement agencies.
- 2.6 Generally, the public are supportive of CCTV and continue to make requests for more cameras. However, there is a significant minority who are against public surveillance.

- 2.7 The Police view is that CCTV cameras are another 'tool' for them to use in their drive to reduce crime and disorder and make communities safer.

3. FUTURE CCTV DEVELOPMENT

- 3.1 The draft CCTV Strategy is attached at **Appendix A**, but a number of issues need to be considered, before the strategy is finalised:
- 1) The ageing cameras require increasing maintenance and repairs. This is an increasing cost on the annual revenue budget. A request for additional budget allocation has been made for 2008/09.
 - 2) The monitoring arrangements are subject to a Service Level Agreement with Housing Hartlepool, which ends in March 2009.
 - 3) The current staffing capacity in the monitoring centre will be less effective if further cameras are added to the system.
 - 4) Rather than continuing to add more cameras to the system, cameras could be decommissioned on a one for one basis. Alternatively the strategic significance of each camera site could be considered, and decommissioning of less important cameras undertaken.
 - 5) Technology continues to develop and therefore opportunities for different solutions to signal transmission, for example, become available. This could be more efficient than the current provision.
 - 6) Current Council policy is to maintain the camera system for the benefit of the community and not to seek to generate income from monitoring other organisation's camera systems. However this could reduce Council costs.
- 3.2 A Viewpoint survey of residents would be useful, to establish there is still general support for CCTV.
- 3.3 The Government has recently published a National CCTV strategy. This needs to be considered before Hartlepool's CCTV Strategy is finalised.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Cabinet members are invited to comment on the draft CCTV Strategy attached and consider the issues outlined in the report.

Contact officer: Alison Mawson
Head of Community Safety & Prevention

Background Papers

None

Hartlepool Borough

Council

DRAFT

**STRATEGY FOR
COMMUNITY
CLOSED CIRCUIT
TELEVISION**

2007

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- **1. Camera locations**
- **2. Legislation affecting CCTV Systems**
- **3. Statistical Information**

Introduction

Hartlepool is located on the north east coast of England within the Tees Valley sub region. It is a compact town with a population of 89,600, living in 40,000 households of which 1.2% are from BME communities. Almost a fifth of the Town's population are at, or above, retirement age.

The town comprises dense urban areas, an established marina and expanding suburbs with a number of distinct rural villages.

A unitary local authority covers the town with a directly elected mayor and cabinet political structure. Other major service providers sharing the local authority boundary are Cleveland Police Basic Command Unit, Cleveland Fire Service, Hartlepool Primary Care Trust, The Probation Service and the Learning and Skills Council.

The Borough has seen a major transformation over the past twenty years through regeneration programmes and public and private sector investment. A number of further major regeneration projects are under development or proposal.

There is a strong tradition of partnership working in the Borough, more recently through the work of The Safer Hartlepool Partnership which brings together the public, private, community and voluntary sectors. This body is the town's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). It has agreed an over-arching plan entitled the Hartlepool Community Strategy through which process the Partnership looks at what local services and developments are needed, the best way of providing them and the structure of the way in which services are delivered.

Community Safety is one of the primary themes of The Safer Hartlepool Partnership with the priority to "make Hartlepool a safer place by reducing crime, disorder and the fear of crime". A key action in progressing this priority is the continuing installation and deployment of closed circuit television ("CCTV") cameras which are operational 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and available to support partners in fulfilling their respective roles and supporting the Partnership theme..

Background

There has been, and continues to be, a constant demand for the deployment of closed circuit television cameras within many areas of Hartlepool.

Closed circuit television (CCTV) offers many benefits to the citizens, visitors and businesses of Hartlepool and supports the work of enforcement and emergency services. CCTV systems have been installed to provide support and reassurance by enabling prompt, appropriate responses to incidents and present accurate details of events as they unfold. These details have proved invaluable as evidence, leading to the successful prosecution of many offenders.

Statistics, both nationally and locally, point to substantial reductions in the levels of crime being committed where CCTV cameras have been installed. In this respect Central Government recognises the role of CCTV schemes as an important tool within their Crime Reduction Strategies particularly in the fight against crime in town centres, shopping centres, rural areas, car parks and within transport links.

Many people perceive CCTV to be the panacea to totally protect the community and eliminate crime. In reality CCTV is an effective tool but only a part of the overall solution. Working in conjunction with other community safety initiatives, CCTV can provide that invaluable tool to assist The Safer Hartlepool Partnership in achieving sustainable reductions in crime levels and the fear of crime.

This document sets out the key objectives of a strategy for CCTV surveillance of public space within Hartlepool. It also outlines how the strategy will be put into practice and gives details of the background issues and protocols for the progression and delivery of the objectives. This strategy has been developed in full consultation with key partners such as Cleveland Police, HousingHartlepool and Cleveland Fire Service and will, throughout its lifetime, seek further views and input to maximise ongoing development.

An Overview of the Hartlepool Borough Council Community CCTV System

Hartlepool Community CCTV scheme has grown substantially over the past few years providing, visibly, cameras undertaking the monitoring of public space in a number of areas throughout the Town. The scheme has been successful in the overall drive to achieve the objective to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime.

The scheme is managed and operated by Hartlepool Borough Council and Housing Hartlepool on behalf of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership. The CCTV Control Centre building is owned by Housing Hartlepool. There is no separate permanent public space CCTV system operated by Cleveland Police.

Operation is through an experienced CCTV team, which works closely with Cleveland Police in gathering evidence and sharing intelligence to help combat crime and anti-social behaviour. In addition the scheme works closely with all departments of Hartlepool Borough Council and Central Government programmes, such as New Deal for Communities, in the enhancement of community safety. New partnerships with other public bodies such as Cleveland Fire Service have been developed.

The CCTV scheme is operational 24 hours a day, 365 days per year and all camera images are recorded. The scheme's cameras cannot all be monitored at the same time, so operators use local knowledge and shared intelligence to endeavour to monitor the right cameras at the right time of day or night. This approach increases the likelihood of observing criminal and anti-social behaviour. Operators also use live information from Police and any other appropriate radio systems to swiftly direct cameras towards areas of need.

Hartlepool CCTV Control Centre now operates and monitors over 70 mainstream cameras, as detailed in Appendix 1, covering public space. In addition it monitors a number of other cameras within H.B.C. premises. Also a number of alarm activated cameras are monitored when required. Capacity is close to being maximised within the present Control Centre operational structure. The Centre does not, however, monitor all Hartlepool Borough Council internal and external CCTV cameras. Monitoring is undertaken in secure premises, with strict access control, fully compliant with all current legislation and operational requirements. All CCTV operators, and front line management are accredited and licensed under the Security Industry Act 2001.

All images captured by CCTV cameras are stored in a secure digital system and retained for a period of no more than 28 days unless specifically required to support criminal or civil investigation and any subsequent legal process. Images not required to be retained after the 28-day period are over-written. Recent conversion from tape to digital retention affords substantially enhanced quality reproduction.

All cameras utilised by the scheme are overt. The scheme does not undertake monitoring through use of covert cameras. Cameras are of two principal variety:

- dome
- shoebox

The majority of cameras have the ability to pan, tilt and zoom through 360 degrees allowing operators to follow a suspect and monitor incidents more effectively. Where appropriate, camera installation throughout the Town has been such as to enable cameras to interlink in following an incident or a suspect. Camera monitoring patterns are reviewed regularly in close conjunction with Police officers.

Images from the majority of cameras are transmitted to the CCTV Control Centre through H.B.C. or British Telecom fibre link. This ensures the maximum quality of image reproduction and operational flexibility. Some lesser quality, but to acceptable CCTV industry standards, transmission systems are utilised. However a programme of up-grade to fibre is being delivered where appropriate.

H.B.C. receives numerous requests for the installation of cameras at new locations. Each request is considered in depth in conjunction with Police and other relevant partners. In this respect CCTV cameras should not be seen as the sole solution to local problems be they temporary or otherwise. In many instances the problems can be addressed by alternative crime prevention and management solutions.

It is not the practice of this scheme to utilise dummy cameras in **any element of it's** operations.

Cameras are sited in open locations and are, therefore, vulnerable to a variety of conditions, which can impact on operational quality. We strive to ensure that no more than 5% of our overall camera stock is out of order at any one time. Nevertheless camera and transmission repairs do, often, necessitate parts replacement or off-site attention by manufacturers. Furthermore third party service providers e.g. power, can impact on operational capability.

A small number of cameras within the scheme are located within H.B.C. premises where the camera is part of the integral building or site security. Whilst the camera images will be recorded continuously, monitoring will only be undertaken by the Control Centre in the event of a security alarm activation. The Control Centre would then decide on and action the appropriate response.

The opportunity to work with public or private sector partners in developing compatible CCTV systems will always be explored. The Middleton Grange Shopping Centre, which is a key Town Centre location, has it's own CCTV system and Control Room for it's own security arrangements. However, their Control Centre also monitors cameras which patrol internal and external H.B.C. owned car parks attached to the Centre thereby maximising the ability of the camera systems to work in tandem. Both Centres are linked which enables monitoring of both H.B.C. and Middleton Grange cameras in either location. This

affords a vital back-up in the event of a major emergency situation such as evacuation of the Shopping Centre or part of the town centre.

Technology development over recent years has not only seen the availability of more compact and less unsightly equipment and enhanced transmission systems, but the development of mobile camera systems. These enable a rapid deployment within crime “hot-spots” to address potential short term problems and assist in appraising need for more permanent CCTV driven or other solutions. Further details are set out within this document.

The operation of CCTV systems is regulated through Government legislation as well as being underpinned by a Code of Practice overseen by the Information Commissioner. Full details are outlined within this document. Hartlepool Borough Council and HousingHartlepool, as system operators, and Cleveland Police, as key operational partners, fully comply with all legislation and good practice recommendations in respect of all cameras linked to and monitored by H.B.C. CCTV Control Centre. Compliance is audited locally as part of the operational structure and can be subject to periodic audit by national bodies. Protocol and Service Level Agreements have been established between the prime scheme partners.

Key Strategic Objectives

The key strategic objectives of the CCTV scheme are:

1. Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in public places within Hartlepool
2. Increase public reassurance
3. Support delivery of Safer Hartlepool Partnership strategic objectives
4. Assist Hartlepool Borough Council, and other enforcement agencies, carry out their enforcement and regulatory duties
5. Protect Hartlepool Borough Council assets and public space areas
6. Assist in, and bring added value to, the delivery of services by Hartlepool Borough Council departments and other partners

Principles supporting Key Strategic Objectives

In order to achieve the Key Strategic Objectives, it is essential that the CCTV equipment used, as well as the operation of the system itself, is to the highest standards.

The key principles relating to all Hartlepool Borough Council public-space Community CCTV operations include:

- **Planning and Assessment**

The Community CCTV scheme must be based on sound criteria including the **evidence of need** from a detailed analysis of crime and incident figures. These should be based upon a representational and robust detailed analysis of crime and incident figures over a recommended period of three years as supplied by Cleveland Police and Hartlepool Borough Council Community Safety Team.

- **Partner Support**

The scheme must have the full support of, and commitment from, the relevant partners, particularly Cleveland Police, with an undertaking to provide a timely and effective response to incidents identified through live monitoring of CCTV cameras or subsequent investigation of recorded images.

Cleveland Police play an integral part within any proposals to install new CCTV cameras, relocate existing cameras or vary the current monitoring and patrol patterns of cameras.

- **Public Consultation**

It must be evident that the public, together with the business community where applicable, have been consulted and that there is significant support for any proposed, or variation of existing, scheme especially with regard to new camera installation or existing camera relocation.

- **Funding**

The majority of capital funding for new camera installation has been attracted through Government Crime and Disorder, and similar, initiatives plus local regeneration programmes such as New Deal for Communities and North Hartlepool Partnership. However it must be recognised that such future funding support is likely to be extremely limited.

We have been successful, in respect of a few of our cameras, in generating private sector support through negotiated Section 106 Planning agreements where major new development or expansion programmes are undertaken. Such an agreement enabled installation of 3 cameras as part of the security provision in and around the Morrisons supermarket development.

Capital has also been raised through funding programmes such as Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Hartlepool Borough Council Community Safety Capital Fund but, once again, the limited capacity of these funds must be recognised.

Revenue support for ongoing operational, monitoring and repair costs is provided, in the main, through Hartlepool Borough Council mainstream budgets. Cleveland Police do not contribute direct financial support although they afford substantial “in kind” benefit towards the overall operation of the system. We have been able to attract contributions towards revenue costs from New Deal for Communities and, until recently, North Hartlepool Partnership, in respect of installations over recent years. Such support is time limited and Hartlepool Borough Council is expected to inherit full CCTV camera and system costs in respect of all cameras installed within the N.D.C. area from year 2011.

Private sector revenue cost contribution is minimal, the only instance being an annual sum from Morrisons in respect of the development detailed above. This, also, has time limitations.

Within all new CCTV camera installation proposals we now seek sponsor contribution towards capital and revenue costs.

- **Equipment**

All camera and monitoring equipment specified for the scheme, including that used within the CCTV Control Centre, must be to acceptable industry standards and recognise sector best practice. Equipment is purchased outright and there are no finance or lease agreements.

Cameras and monitoring equipment have been installed over a period of several years. The life expectancy of a camera will vary dependent upon external location but on average should be between 6 and 8 years dependent upon any mid-life refurbishment programme. In addition the impact of technological advances must be considered – in this respect all recording equipment within our CCTV Control Centre was upgraded, 2 years ago, from tape to digital format to afford better image reproduction and maximise storage capacity.

Recording equipment is digital and encrypted to meet the requirements for use as evidence within criminal or civil law and to comply with Data Protection requirements.

The use of Dummy cameras is not undertaken within any part of the scheme. Their use could give a false sense of security to persons within any area they were utilised as well as substantially hindering an investigation in the event of a criminal or other incident.

- **Monitoring and Recording**

All cameras within this scheme must be connected to the H.B.C. CCTV Control Centre for real-time, or where agreed, acceptable dial in or alarm activated monitoring and recording. The use of fibre-optic links is undertaken where it is financially viable.

All cameras have agreed and deliverable monitoring programmes which are maintained unless specific or priority circumstances impact.

All camera images are digitally recorded. Images are retained for a maximum period of 28 days, unless specifically required for investigation or evidential purposes where-after they are over-written. Storage of, and access to, images is to Data Protection Act compliance and CCTV Code of Practice criteria. Images are only be viewed by and/or released to:

- The Police in respect of the investigation of a criminal incident and/or subsequent production in a Court of Law for evidential purposes
- Person or Persons as directed within an Order of Court
- Other Enforcement or Public Sector Agencies including Cleveland Fire Service, to support investigation of incidents where criminal or other action, through legislation, could ensue

The integrity and security of the CCTV Control Centre is maintained at all times. Only in exceptional circumstances, will external organisations **or individuals** have any access to, or linkage with, monitoring systems, and only with the full agreement of H.B.C. and Partners to specifically prevent and detect criminal and anti-social behaviour acts.

- **Relocation and/or decommissioning of cameras**

The principal objective of commissioning a fixed location CCTV camera is to assist in reducing and preventing crime and anti-social behaviour in either a specific or general location. Impact and effectiveness of all cameras is reviewed periodically by partners utilising monitoring and statistical information, partner intelligence and feedback in respect of local circumstances as well as perceptions relating fear of crime.

Where it is evidenced that there is no longer a justifiable need for a camera in a specific location or a camera could be better deployed in an alternative location, be it local or elsewhere within the Town, an assessment will be undertaken. That assessment will include local community representative consultation. Any relocation or decommission of a camera, other than locally to improve monitoring capability, would be on a phased basis with service links, that is transmission and power, remaining in situ for a subsequent period. Contingency arrangements whereby the rapid deployment of a mobile camera could be utilised were there an upsurge in local crime and anti-social behaviour, are already established. The utilisation of mobile CCTV cameras is detailed within this strategy document.

- **Partnership Delivery**

Delivery is extremely well co-ordinated between key partners, such as Cleveland Police and Cleveland Fire Service, pro-actively maximising use of CCTV cameras within live incidents and/or subsequent investigation. For some time a nominated Police Officer has undertaken a liaison link role with the CCTV Control Centre to actively develop crime detection activity and co-ordinate implementation of intelligence received. As a further development of this relationship, Cleveland Police have recently seconded an officer to dedicated monitoring duties within the Control Centre, which compliments the role of their CCTV Co-ordination Officer. Links with Cleveland Police Ladgate Lane Headquarters Control Room enable Police to view images within that Control Room from any of our cameras at any time. These links to Ladgate Lane are replicated from each of the 4 CCTV Control Centres operated by Local Authorities within the Cleveland area on a stand alone basis. A further link has been established with Cleveland Police's Avenue Road Hartlepool station.

As detailed Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers work in close liaison with the CCTV Control Centre operators to ensure local intelligence and knowledge is utilised within the operation and management of cameras. To support Police Officers patrol and response duties, an Airwaves radio is located within the Control Room, which by remaining in permanent operation enables operators to immediately concentrate cameras on live incidents. Indeed there are numerous occasions where operators are able to alert Police Officers, over the Airwave radio, of incidents they observe setting in train the first stage of Police response.

The Community CCTV scheme supports H.B.C. departments where public space surveillance e.g. car parks is not undertaken directly within this scheme. In addition security for a number of H.B.C. buildings is monitored within the Control Centre.

Active support is afforded to regeneration programmes such as New Deal for Communities, and until recently North Hartlepool Partnership. A number of initiatives have incorporated a range of security measures including CCTV cameras. Feedback from programme officers, including Street Wardens, is encouraged.

Major private sector developments such as Middleton Grange Shopping Centre have a fundamental role in ensuring cross utilisation of CCTV and other security systems. Joint initiatives and working has been progressed including a link between the Community CCTV scheme and Middleton Grange Control Centres allowing cross monitoring and partial control of each other's cameras

It is essential that public awareness and confidence continues to be developed through Neighbourhood Action Plans and other forum in addressing the Community Safety agenda. Elected Members have a key role within this process and we will continue to develop their awareness in the role and capacity of CCTV

The system is able to support private Security Companies engaged in the day to day delivery of public space security on behalf of H.B.C.

Links with ShopWatch, PubWatch or similar accredited and regulated radio schemes, operating within Hartlepool, have been established and are supported where practical.

Management

Management of the H.B.C. Community CCTV scheme is undertaken by The Council's Community Safety Department within Regeneration and Planning. Monitoring of the cameras, together with recording of images, is carried out, through a Service Level Agreement, by HousingHartlepool.

A working group of representatives from Hartlepool Borough Council, HousingHartlepool, Cleveland Police Hartlepool Basic Command Unit and Hartlepool New Deal for Communities, supported by contractors who undertake maintenance of the system, meet monthly to review current operational issues, consider system improvements and review overall compliance.

All installation and maintenance/repair works of cameras or Control Centre equipment is undertaken by H.B.C. approved contractors under the direct control of H.B.C. officers.

Access to H.B.C. CCTV Control Centre for any person, including Police Officers, is strictly controlled and registered in line with industry recommended procedures.

All images are digitally recorded and encrypted to meet evidential requirements of the legal system. Access to, and copying of, images are again strictly controlled and registered. Police Officers are permitted to request and remove copies of images within the rules of evidence disclosure. Other Enforcement or Public Sector Agencies, together with Cleveland Fire Service, may access images to support investigation of incidents where criminal or other action may ensue. No other viewing, or copying of, images is permitted unless under directive of a Court Order.

Hartlepool Borough Council undertakes the majority of public space surveillance, although some other public sector bodies, such as Hospitals and Government Offices, will maintain in-house systems to monitor their car parks and external space. Hartlepool Borough Council does not undertake private space surveillance as a routine or under specific contract.

Audit

CCTV system owners and managers can be required by The Information Commissioner, under the CCTV Code of Practice, to make available all paper work, including logs and records, in respect of the operation of a CCTV system where public space monitoring is involved.

The Security Industry Authority, responsible for licensing of CCTV operators, undertakes location audit to ensure licence compliance and appropriate operation of CCTV monitoring procedures within the licensing criteria. Whilst we have responded to a written request for CCTV operator details, we have not received a physical inspection.

In addition other regulatory bodies will audit specific aspects of CCTV operations. The Office of Surveillance Commissioners recently undertook an audit on compliance within the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA).

Publicity

Opportunities are taken to promote and increase awareness of the CCTV scheme through local media articles and reports. However it is not the policy of the Scheme to release any recorded images for other than evidential or investigation purposes. Requests to make footage available for television or other programmes have been declined.

Officers involved in the operation of the Community CCTV system work closely with a wide range of community safety groups and other public forums to address any concerns or requests in respect of CCTV operations and, where appropriate, raise public awareness and assurance.

Code of Practice and Operating Procedures

A written code of practice and written operating procedures exist and are available for consultation through Hartlepool Borough Council (Community Safety Department) or Housing Hartlepool.

Financial Management.

All camera and monitoring equipment utilised within the scheme is to acceptable industry standards and takes into account best practice with regard to operation capability. Similarly all monitoring and recording processes are undertaken to full compliance and best practice standards

Capital acquisition of all equipment is undertaken by full and direct purchase. There are no finance or lease agreements relating to any of the system equipment. Capital funding is generated from central and local government initiatives either specifically targeted at the installation of CCTV within crime reduction initiatives or through partnership programmes including New Deal for Communities and Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund, to reduce and address the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. Of recent there have been some successful initiatives progressed in conjunction with local resident groups to install cameras.

The cost of ongoing operation of the system – revenue cost – lies totally with Hartlepool Borough Council. There is, however, agreement with some partnerships for contribution towards operating costs on either a permanent or medium term basis. Such contributors include New Deal for Communities and, until recently, North Hartlepool Partnership. A further element of contribution has been secured through Section 106 agreement within the Town & Country Planning Act 1990. It is an objective, for all recent and future new camera installation, that full or substantial contribution towards revenue cost be secured within all proposals.

Revenue costs fall within four principal areas:

- Monitoring. An annual fee is paid to HousingHartlepool for monitoring and all associated functions. HousingHartlepool do not, in the majority of instances, meet capital costs with regard to equipment utilised within the CCTV Control Centre for monitoring, recording and recovery of images
- Power. All cameras require electrical power for operation. This is supplied through direct metering into national supply networks or by link to H.B.C. Street Lighting network
- Transmission. Image transmission from a camera to the CCTV Control Centre is, principally through H.B.C. or British Telecom dedicated fibre or general telephone connection. The other recognised industry alternative is wireless transfer of signals. We do not, at this time, have any such operations – the lack of availability of “at height” transmission transfer points hinder such usage within Hartlepool
- Maintenance and repair. Cameras plus monitoring and recording equipment do require repair and refurbishment work to be undertaken. Most cameras, given their external location, are susceptible to weather and general wear and tear conditions. Although there are several small maintenance arrangements in place, there is not a full system maintenance and repair contract established. Any such future contract arrangements could include capital acquisition to maximise price efficiency.

Given an operation of over 80 cameras, revenue costs are substantial. The following information seeks to broadly illustrate those costs based on revenue cost incurred for the financial year 2006/7 and an assessment for the financial years 2007/8 and 2008/9.

	Actual 2006/7	Projected 2007/8	Projected 2008/9
Monitoring	70000	71000	73000
Power	2700	4000	4200
Transmission	37100	41000	43000
Maintenance & repair	58700	50000	50000
Sundry expenditure	3300	5000	5000
SUB TOTAL	171800	171000	175200
Income	34300	35000	35000
TOTAL	137500	136000	140200

Notes:

- Monitoring. An annual payment, increasing by R.P.I., is paid to HousingHartlepool. This agreement is re-negotiable in 2009
- Power. The acquisition of power is through overall H.B.C. contractual arrangements with NPower either by provision direct from network or through H.B.C. street lighting
- Transmission arrangements are contracted with British Telecom as the only service provider within Hartlepool able to meet full requirements
- In conjunction with contractors undertaking maintenance and repair work, we have recently completed a diagnostic age maintenance profile of all cameras and equipment for the years 2006/7 and 2007/8. Future analysis currently underway. The analysis assesses maximum perceived maintenance cost but cannot fully account for unanticipated breakdowns.

Budgetary revenue pressures over the medium term:

- Renegotiation of agreement with HousingHartlepool for provision of monitoring operations and Control Centre premises
- Uncontrollable increases in power and transmission costs although national guidelines/constraints should minimise
- Age profile of equipment which could increase maintenance, repair and refurbishment costs.
- Availability of budget funding within over all Hartlepool Borough Council financial constraints. This does not include any full equipment replacement which may become necessary
- Loss of income from Hartlepool New Deal for Communities upon programme expiry
- Lack of Partner contribution towards revenue costs where new cameras installed.

Each new camera installation adds, in broad terms, an average cost of approximately £2500 per annum, calculated over a 5 year period, in operating, maintenance and repair costs. This does not take into account unanticipated repairs.

Utilisation of Mobile CCTV

Mobile or rapid deployment CCTV cameras are designed to be easily located in crime “hot-spots” where CCTV is an appropriate response and early intervention is beneficial. In addition they are a useful tool in assessing the feasibility of proposals for the installation of a fixed CCTV camera given the relevant financial implications.

Mobile cameras can be used to support Police and community safety initiatives to support drugs anti-social behaviour, racial harassment and intelligence led operations. Deployment of mobile cameras alongside fixed CCTV cameras can also offer a greater degree of flexibility in overall CCTV operations. The nature of many crime “hot-spots”, allied to changing patterns of offending and displacement over a period of time, enables use of mobile cameras to be part of a series of pro-active and reactive measures to address core localised problems.

One mobile CCTV delivery format is the on-board equipping of a self contained vehicle incorporating camera monitoring and recording equipment. This facility affords the ultimate short term response to monitor events or other public gatherings where security concerns may prevail. Such facilities are utilised by Cleveland Police and have proved extremely useful in monitoring Town Centre Evening Economy activity and high risk football matches. However there are no plans for utilisation of such a facility by H.B.C.

H.B.C. utilises re-deployable cameras which can be securely mounted to a fixed point, generally an existing street lighting column or by installation of a dedicated column, for short to medium term monitoring. Images are captured through a down loadable on site recorder or transmitted as radio wave signals allowing images to be viewed and/or stored within a nearby fixed location or vehicle. The Council currently owns one re-deployable camera whilst a further camera has been acquired by Hartlepool Central JAG (Joint Action Group), which the Council operates on their behalf, for deployment within their area. Hartlepool Borough Council has also assisted Resident Groups installing a mobile camera in the Dyke House area.

Mobile cameras can be used as an effective support tool at locations from where fixed site cameras are relocated and a subsequent short term need is identified.

As with a fixed CCTV camera, all operations of a mobile camera are regulated by Data Protection Act and CCTV Code of Practice criteria including the display of appropriate signage.

Other CCTV Developments

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

A large percentage of criminal activity surrounds, or directly involves, the use of motor vehicles.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition systems have been developed countrywide. In 2006 Cleveland Police, with capital funding from Central Government, introduced a force-wide A.N.P.R. programme within Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton Council districts. 12 A.N.P.R. readers have been installed within Cleveland Police Hartlepool District Command Unit area which has a link to the H.B.C. Community CCTV Control Centre. This enables the H.B.C. CCTV camera system to support Cleveland Police Headquarters Operations Control Centre in monitoring suspicious vehicles and liaising with on the spot Police Officers.

Traffic Management Act 2004

H.B.C. Community CCTV cameras are not utilised to monitor moving traffic or road junctions for the purpose of issuing fixed penalty notices.

This Bill affords new traffic control and enforcement powers to Local Authorities. CCTV is used in some London areas to detect road offences such as illegal use of bus lanes, yellow box junction violations and restricted entry violations. There is every likelihood that larger cities or conurbations will, in the future, exercise such powers and utilise CCTV to detect traffic infringements and follow fixed penalty notice procedures. There are no current plans for utilisation of these powers within Hartlepool.

Hartlepool exercises powers within Decriminalised Parking Enforcement to issue penalty charge notices in respect vehicles illegally parked on the highway. Whilst H.B.C. Community CCTV cameras are not used for the direct detection of such offences, they may be utilised to support the health and safety of officers undertaking enforcement duties.

Outcomes and Measures of Success

As part of operational assessment, it is prudent to underpin performance with output and outcome measures to assess the success, or otherwise, of performance, identify strengths and weaknesses and plan future development.

Audit

Audit by Government or legislative bodies, be it regular or irregular, is a valuable compliance measure of the CCTV scheme operations. As part of the process of meeting those criteria, a number of local audit checks are undertaken within H.B.C. CCTV Control Room by management and H.B.C. Officers. These include:

- Control Room access entry logs
- Viewing request logs
- Image copy logs
- Visual audit of operator monitoring procedures
- Random examination of recorded images to ensure monitoring compliance within Data Protection Act
- Security Industry Authority licence compliance

Crime and Incident Statistics

Originating from Police:

- Number of viewing requests
- Number of copies of images/footage taken
- Arrests recorded

Reference should be made to Appendix 3

Originating from Public or Legal Representatives:

- Requests received for image viewing
(Whilst CCTV images cannot be released to the public or their representatives, we receive a number of such requests to assist the defence of a person facing trial or in relation to incidents where criminal proceedings may not follow e.g. vehicle accidents. However such footage can be conditionally made available through The Police or through Court Order. Requests can be an indicator of public confidence in seeking CCTV camera support when perceived to be available).

Camera Operational Efficiency

To maximise monitoring ability and recording of images, the time cameras are out of action should be minimised. Non-operational cameras do not represent best value and return on investment. Camera operational status is regularly monitored with an objective of no more than 5% of camera stock or monitoring equipment being out of action through fault or decommissioning for repair or refurbishment.

Reference should be made to Appendix 3

Partner Output and Outcome Measures.

Within funding support, certain partners e.g. Hartlepool New Deal for Communities and North Hartlepool Partnership, specify output and outcome measures and targets to support best value and achievement within their scheme programme.

Measures, in addition into those outlined above, include:

- Participation in Community Safety and Crime Reduction working groups
- Reduction in number of crimes within camera catchment area
- Review of camera patrol and monitoring patterns

S.W.O.T. ANALYSIS

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Established system with evidenced success - Proven management/operational structure - Strong Partnership strategic and operational links - Full ownership without financial encumbrance - Meets all legal criteria and compliance 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All financial responsibility lies with H.B.C. - Equipment age profile - Control Room capacity - No capital acquisition/maintenance/repair procurement arrangements - Public awareness of system
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Income generation from other monitoring work including private sector - Incorporation/management of all H.B.C. CCTV systems to maximise compliance and cost structure - Integration of other public sector CCTV systems - Sub regional delivery and procurement - Technology advances 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.B.C. does not own CCTV Control Centre building - Funding constraints - Partner withdrawal/establishing of own parallel CCTV systems - Change on legislation and/or Government priorities - Technology advances

**AREAS
FOR
DISCUSSION**

Financial

<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Lead Partner</u>	<u>Other Partners</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Resources</u>	<u>Measure</u>
Undertake a full review of revenue costs for annual operation of CCTV system. Prepare 5 year financial projection	H.B.C.	Housing Hartlepool Cleveland Police Cleveland Fire Service	December 2007 and annually February 2008	Existing	Ensure funding levels to maintain full operation. Future financial planning.
Explore mainstream capital funding options to assist in camera and infrastructure installation	H.B.C.	Cleveland Police Housing Hartlepool Cleveland Fire Service	March 2008	Existing	Secure mainstream funding. Funding contribution for new programmes.
Explore potential for income generation from camera monitoring on behalf of other CCTV schemes	H.B.C. Housing Hartlepool		April 2008	Existing	Generate addition income to support H.B.C. operations.
Explore opportunities for sub regional procurement of operational and maintenance services	H.B.C.	Sub regional local authorities. Cleveland Police	May 2008	Existing	Feasibility exercise completed. Identification of benefits which could accrue.

Infrastructure

<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Lead Partner</u>	<u>Other Partners</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Resources</u>	<u>Measure</u>
Explore feasibility of talking cameras	H.B.C.	Cleveland Police. Housing Hartlepool	November 2007	Future requirement	Report on current national pilot projects including cost and operational implications
Undertake and update full diagnostic age profile of all camera and monitoring equipment	H.B.C.		November 2007 and annually	Existing. Future requirement	Retention of full operation. Minimisation in camera/equipment down-time. Operational benefit from introduction of new technology.
Establish guidelines for appraisal of, and response to, new CCTV installation requests	H.B.C.	Cleveland Police. Cleveland Fire Service.	December 2007	Existing. Future resources.	Consistent guidelines to appraise new install requests. Demonstration of need
Identify, and regularly review, strategic site gaps and new developments where CCTV installation would assist overall security and safety	H.B.C.	Cleveland Police. Cleveland Fire Service.	January 2008	Existing. Future requirements	Review of planning applications. Gaps and improvements identified. Successful generation of Planning Gain or other shared funding support
Explore the utilisation of mobile camera deployment as opposed to fixed site installation	H.B.C.	Cleveland Police. Housing Hartlepool.	January 2008	Future requirement	Report on national usage and benefits

Appraise existing camera locations and monitoring /patrol patterns	H.B.C.	Cleveland Police Housing Hartlepool Cleveland Fire Service.	March 2008 and annually	Existing	Maximisation of camera deployment in crime prevention and detection Variation in monitoring/patrol patterns Decommission or relocation of cameras as appropriate for local or town-wide requirements
Analyse opportunities for installation of and/or monitoring of CCTV cameras in private industrial or retail locations	H.B.C.	Housing Hartlepool Cleveland Police	April 2008	Existing. Future requirement	Scoping exercise completed

Monitoring Operation

<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Lead Partner</u>	<u>Other Partners</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Resources</u>	<u>Measure</u>
Review operator monitoring provision within Control Centre	H.B.C. Housing Hartlepool	Cleveland Police Cleveland Police.	November 2007	Existing	Identification of any monitoring shortfall. Inform review of monitoring S.L.A. with Housing Hartlepool
Review operational effectiveness of monitoring and recording equipment	Housing Hartlepool	H.B.C. Cleveland Police Cleveland Fire Service.	February 2008	Existing	Identify existing cost efficiency and suitability. Appraisal of technological developments. Confirmation of standards for evidential and other legal requirements.
Explore joint Control Centre operation potential with: a) Sub regional local authorities b) Public Sector users c) Private sector Control Centre operators	H.B.C. Housing Hartlepool	Sub regional authorities Cleveland Fire Service.	May 2008	Existing	Feasibility exercise completed. Continuity of Control Centre operation. Identification of benefits which could accrue.

Operational Compliance

<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Lead Partner</u>	<u>Other Partners</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Resources</u>	<u>Measure</u>
Undertake annual internal compliance audit of Control Centre	H.B.C.	Housing Hartlepool	January 2008 and annually	Existing	Compliance of Control Centre operation
Ensure ongoing compliance within revised CCTV data protection code of practice (Draft consultation closes 31 October 2007)	Housing Hartlepool	H.B.C. Cleveland Police.	February 2008	Existing	Ongoing compliance. External audit by legislative bodies.
Co-ordinate operational Data Protection and CCTV Code of Practice compliance for all H.B.C. internal and external CCTV systems	H.B.C.		September 2008	Existing	Full H.B.C. compliance. Appropriate management of all enquiries and complaints relating to CCTV operation

Sundry

<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Lead Partner</u>	<u>Other Partners</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Resources</u>	<u>Measure</u>
Participation in Public Authority CCTV Managers Association meetings and information exchange	H.B.C.	Housing Hartlepool Cleveland Police Cleveland Fire Service.	November 2007 and ongoing	Existing	Compliance with legislation and operational change. Best Practice development.
Maintain compilation of statistical information	Housing Hartlepool	H.B.C. Cleveland Police Cleveland Fire Service.	November 2007 and ongoing	Existing	Provision and analyse of system activity information. Annual report on usage of CCTV facilities
Review Partnership structure and cohesion to identify opportunities to strengthen overall operation and delivery	H.B.C. Cleveland Police HousingHartlepool Cleveland Fire Service		February 2008	Existing	Partner satisfaction with delivery. Annual report on operation of CCTV system
Develop a co-ordinated Public Relations programme to raise awareness of CCTV	H.B.C. Cleveland Police HousingHartlepool Cleveland Fire Service		February 2008	Existing	Media contacts/releases Partner feedback H.B.C. MORI and Community views

Review of CCTV Benchmarking measures as recommended by Public Authority CCTV Managers Association	H.B.C.	Housing Hartlepool Cleveland Police Cleveland Fire Service.	March 2008	Existing	Productive operation of system. Identification of cost efficiency opportunities.
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Appendix 1

Public Space Camera Locations Monitored at H.B.C. CCTV Control Centre.

1. Bottom Church Street
2. Back Church Street
3. Whitby Street
4. Scarborough Street
5. Hanson House
6. Whitby Street Drug Centre
7. Fastnet Grove
8. Musgrave Walk
9. Corner of Stockton Road and Victoria Road
10. Victoria Road

11. Rear York Road and Victoria Road
12. Avenue Road and Lucan Street
13. Raby Road and Museum Road
14. Clarence Road and Museum Road 1
15. Clarence Road and Museum Road 2
16. Stockton Street
17. Mill House Skate Park 1
18. Mill House Skate Park 2
19. Mill House Public House
20. Mill House rear 1

21. Mill House rear 2
22. Victoria Road and York Road corner
23. York Road - Lloyds Bank/Central Library
24. Roker Street car park 1
25. Roker Street car park 2
26. York Road and Park Road corner
27. Gainford Street
28. Richard Court
29. Burn Valley roundabout
30. Waldon Street

31. Oxford Road and Shrewsbury Street
32. Belle Vue roundabout
33. Jutland Road 1
34. Jutland Road 2

35. Newholme Court 1
36. Newholme Court 2
37. Newholme Road 3
38. Newholme Road 4
39. Newholme Road 5
40. Owton Manor Lane East

41. Fens Shopping Parade, Catcote Road
42. St. Patrick's Church, Owton Manor Lane
43. Wynyard Road Shopping Parade
44. Balmoral Road
45. Brierton Lower School
46. Eskdale Road Shopping Parade
47. Headland Heugh
48. Headland Block Sands
49. Southgate, Headland
50. Borough Hall, Headland

51. Northgate, Headland
52. Old Boys Playing Fields
53. Spion Kop
54. King George V Playing Fields
55. Warren Road and Winterbottom Avenue
56. Brus Arms roundabout 1
57. Brus Arms roundabout 2
58. King Oswy Drive Shopping Parade
59. Clavering Road Shopping Parade
60. Seaton Front Hotel

61. Seaton Front Esplanade
62. Elizabeth Way Shopping Parade
63. Seaton Park
64. Kathleen Street
65. Murray Street and Lothian Road
66. Duke Street and Cundall Street
67. Hart Lane and Raby Road
68. Hart Lane and Duke Street
69. St. Pauls Road and South Road
70. Oxford Road and Stockton Road

71. Rear Victoria Road
72. Newburn Bridge Industrial Estate
73. Park Square
74. West View Miers Avenue

Approved future installations

75 Tankerville Street and Milton Road

Cameras monitored on as needs basis

- 76 Tanfield Nurseries
- 77 Burn Road Recycling Centre
- 78 Lynn Street

- 79 Brougham Enterprise Centre
- 80 Bridge Youth Centre x2
- 81 Burn Valley Gardens Children's Play ground
- 82 Brierton A2L School
- 83 Wynyard House
- 84 St. Cuthbert's Church
- 85 Grayfields Recreation Centre

Other links:

- CCTV Control Centre to Cleveland Police Ladgate Lane Headquarters enabling Police Control room to simultaneously monitor any H.B.C. camera. This also underpins Hartlepool Borough Council's Emergency Response responsibilities
- CCTV Control Centre to Cleveland Police Hartlepool Avenue Road station
- CCTV Control Centre to Hartlepool Middleton Grange Shopping Centre CCTV Control Room to enable co-ordinated monitoring of criminal and anti-social behaviour in and around the Centre as well as remote site monitoring in support of emergency evacuation

Other prime CCTV camera systems:

- Town Centre Car Parks. H.B.C. is responsible for 22 CCTV cameras within Town Centre car parks. Monitoring is currently undertaken within Middleton Grange Shopping Centre Control Room although the feasibility of H.B.C. taking over the monitoring function is under exploration
- Hartlepool Maritime Experience. 12 CCTV cameras protect the interior and exterior of this prestigious tourist attraction. Camera operation, including monitoring, is under review.

Appendix 2

Legislation affecting CCTV Systems

Operation of CCTV systems, in respect of live monitoring, storage and release of images and access to Control Rooms, is controlled by a number of Acts of Parliament and Regulatory Bodies. System Operators are required to consider and address all such Acts and Regulations. Hartlepool Borough Council Community CCTV system currently complies with, amongst others:

Data Protection Act 1998

Data is defined as that which confirms identifying features, for example, a name or an image. Personal data is confidential and the data Protection Act assures an individual's right to privacy. All CCTV systems are required to be notified to the Office of the Information Commissioner.

Human Rights Act 1998

European legislation identifies and protects human rights. Everyone has the right to respect for private and family life, their home and their correspondence (e.g. telephone calls and mail).

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires all responsible authorities to consider Community Safety within all aspects of their work. The Safer Hartlepool Partnership has an overall objective to secure sustainable reductions in crime and disorder, and to address the fear of crime, within the Town of Hartlepool.

Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000

RIPA sets out and provides the authority for targeted covert surveillance. Unauthorised surveillance cannot be used as evidence and will constitute a breach of privacy and human rights legislation.

Freedom of Information Act 2000

An individual has the right to request and be provided with information held about them by public authorities. Any request must be in legible writing, include name and address and specify the information required. A public authority is obligated to reply within a specific timescale.

Private Security Industry Act 2001

The Security Industry Authority is responsible for implementing the requirements of this Act which requires that companies and individuals, operating within the private security industry sector, are licensed and monitored. This includes CCTV operations carrying out public space surveillance which may include the specific observation and recording of the actions of individuals. This will include the detection and prevention of criminal and anti-social behaviour.

Criminal Procedures and Investigations Act 1996

This is designed to create a statutory framework for the disclosure to defendants of material which the prosecution would not intend to use in the presentation of its own case – known as unused material. This may include, where in existence, CCTV camera images.

CCTV Code of Practice

The code provides good practice advice for those involved in operating CCTV systems which view or record images of individuals and helps operators comply with their legal obligations under the Data Protection Act. The Data Protection Act not only creates obligations for organisations, it also gives individuals rights such as access to their details and recourse where they suffer damage. The code details good practice recommendations, based on legally enforceable principles, to assist compliant operation of systems. The Information Commissioner is presently consulting on a revised Code of Practice for future issue. This revised code has been developed through close consultation with The Association of Chief Police Officers and other principal bodies undertaking CCTV operation.

Appendix 3

Statistical Information

1) CCTV CONTROL CENTRE STATISTICS JANUARY 2006 – DECEMBER 2006

MONTH	VIEWING REQ UES TS	FOO TAGE COPIED	ARRES TS REC O RDED
January	49	36	35
February	35	28	28
March	30	26	25
TO TALS	114	90	88
April	60	39	24
May	34	36	35
June	38	29	36
TO TALS	132	104	95
July	36	26	32
August	29	25	19
September	38	34	29
TO TALS	103	85	80
October	33	28	25
November	16	30	37
December	21	29	30
TO TALS	70	87	92

JANUARY 2007 – DECEMBER 2007

MONTH	VIEWING REQ UES TS	FOO TAGE COPIED	ARRES TS REC O RDED
January	16	12	21
February	17	10	27
March	24	17	24
TO TALS	57	39	72
April	26	19	28
May	18	13	21
June	30	24	29
TO TALS	74	56	78

2) CAMERA OPERATIONAL EFFECIENCY
AUGUST 2006 – JULY 2007

MONTH	FULLY OPERATIONAL %	PARTIALLY OPERATIONAL %	OUT OF ORDER %
August 2006	85	8	7
September	88	4	8
October	84	7	9
November	92	5	3
December	92	6	2
January 2007	87	7	6
February	86	11	3
March	92	4	4
April	91	5	4
May	92	4	4
June	92	4	4
July	95	4	1

Definitions:

- Fully operational. Working in all aspects including monitoring capability within Control Centre
- Partially operational. Camera still operating and images recording. However there may be operation limitations such as camera restricted “pan, tilt and zoom” capacity or monitoring limitations such as “flickering” screen within Control Centre
- Out of action. Camera not functioning – either removed for maintenance and/or replacement of parts or with manufacturers for refurbishment/major repair. Loss of power. Control Centre equipment failure.

CABINET REPORT

22nd January 2008



Report of: DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Subject: PUBLIC CONVENIENCE PROVISION IN
HARTLEPOOL AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF
SEATON CAREW CLOCK TOWER AND SHELTER

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the Cabinet with a position statement in respect of development and procurement of public conveniences and to make further recommendations.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report outlines the progress of works on public conveniences and includes a list of revised recommendations, with a position statement for each scheme, including financial projections. The report also links with the refurbishment of the Seaton Carew Clock Tower and Shelter.

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

This is a matter that affects Council assets and the community of Hartlepool and visitors.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non Key decision

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Cabinet 22nd January 2008

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

- i) Cabinet note progress on the public convenience provision.

- ii) Cabinet note the development and refurbishment of the Seaton Carew Clock Tower and Shelter.
- iii) Cabinet's views are sought on the following recommendations:-
 - a) That the public conveniences at the Rocket House should now be demolished with the area being landscaped and the Clock Tower toilets refurbished as part of the master plan for the area in conjunction with the structural concrete repairs.
 - b) That the Hartlepool Maritime Experience toilet block should be retained and adapted for use by the museums service as storage space.
 - c) That the Seaton Baths facility be demolished the area being made good and landscaped to match the existing with a new facility being built near the car park adjacent the Newburn Bridge.
 - d) That the existing toilet facility within Ward Jackson Park be retained and upgraded to current standards

Report of: DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Subject: PUBLIC CONVENIENCE PROVISION IN
HARTLEPOOL AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF
SEATON CAREW CLOCK TOWER AND SHELTER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Cabinet with a position statement in respect of development and procurement of public conveniences and to make further recommendations.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Cabinet at its meeting on 8th January 2007 agreed a series of recommendations based on the final report outlining:-

- i) The final implications of each of the proposals contained within the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum report and the additional suggestions made by Cabinet members.
- ii) The overall financial package required for the implementation of the Forums recommendations, including the additional suggestions made by Cabinet

The agreed works were to be carried out within the 07/08 and 08/09 financial years.

- 2.2 The 2007/8 capital programme included £150,000 for structural works and some refurbishment of the Seaton Carew Clock Tower and Shelter. There is an additional £40,000 available from within Regeneration and Planning reserves.

3. PROPOSALS / POSITION STATEMENTS

3.1 Rocket House Toilets

- 3.1.1 The original proposal was to build a new facility adjacent to the old Rocket House site and close to the Clock Tower site thereafter.
- 3.1.2 During the course of the detailed design process a number of issues were identified that now make this scheme both operationally and financially not viable.

- 3.1.3 The proposed new building lies within the Seaton Carew conservation area which raises a number of issues regarding type, style and height of the building. The existing building is partially subterranean so as not to obscure views of the sea. This particular issue conflicts directly with the engineers report that the floor level of any new build will need to be 2.7 metres above the existing ground level. This also has an impact on the construction costs, increasing the budget estimate for the new build to £350k excluding fees etc.
- 3.1.4 In addition coastal protection works would be required in conjunction with the new build. In coast protection terms the works would have to be broadly of the mass and height of the works constructed by Teesside Development Corporation (TDC) from the South Pier at the Marina to Newburn Bridge, or possibly higher and heavier, given the recent increases in predicted heights of sea level rise due to global warming, as per PPS 25 (Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk). The TDC works have a promenade level of 8m A.O.D (Above Ordinance Datum) and top of wall level of 9m A.O.D. The existing car park and promenade at the Rocket House are approximately 5m A.O.D, which gives some idea of the scale of the potential height differential.
- 3.1.5 Regarding the floor level of the proposed toilets and flood plain requirements, a check based on the PPS 25 guidance, gives a floor level the same as the existing promenade, based on the proposed use as toilets. It should be noted that the levels vary, depending on the type of use.
- 3.1.6 An approximate budget cost for the works necessary to provide the revised sea defences to the proposed toilets would be in the order of £10k/m. This would be required over a distance of 120m giving a total of £1.2m excluding fees.
- 3.1.7 A total cost for the construction would therefore be in the region of £1.55m excluding fees etc.
- 3.1.8 The alternative option to this would be to demolish the Rocket House facility backfill, consolidate the site and provide a hard landscape scheme including seating areas for the public, with part of the original budget provided for the new build (£90k excluding fees).
- 3.1.9 The remainder of the budget could be used to renovate the Clock Tower toilets which are in close proximity, as part of the overall works to the structure and the master plan for the environmental improvements to the site in general.

3.2. **Seaton Bus Station: Background Structural Works**

- 3.2.1 Seaton Carew Bus Station sits within a conservation area and is Grade 2 listed.

- 3.2.2 The structure exhibits significant signs of concrete carbonation leading to corrosion of reinforcement and spalling of a number of areas of concrete. Localised emergency works have been executed previously to remove areas in a dangerous condition.
- 3.2.3 Existing step access points are in poor condition with areas likely to cause trips, slips and falls potential increased claims for personal injury.
- 3.2.4 The external protective and decorative surface coating has failed throughout, and there is also considerable graffiti within and around the shelter areas.
- 3.2.5 A budget provision of £190k (£150k in the Capital Programme and £40k in Regeneration and Planning Reserves) for 2007/2008 was identified for concrete repairs, external redecoration refurbishment of seating and repairs to all steps following the structural engineer's inspection.
- 3.2.6 The pre-tender estimated budget price for the sub-contract work is £93,500 which includes the concrete repairs and application of the protective coating/decoration.
- 3.2.7 These specialised costs need to be formalised by competitive tender under the Neighbourhood Services in-house team who will be the main contractor and will carry out the refurbishment of seating and repairs to steps etc as part of the same contract.
- 3.2.8 The full tender package is currently with the in-house team and their tender is awaited.
- 3.2.9 Work is expected to start on site in January with a contract duration of approximately eight weeks.
- 3.2.10 The works will comprise cutting out loose and chloride contaminated concrete by high pressure water jetting and making repairs with proprietary cementitious repair concrete which should prevent premature failure of the repairs. The contract will allow for providing additional reinforcement where required.
- 3.2.11 The contract also includes for flash blasting to remove the loose paint and the application of a specialist elastomeric protective coating to seal the concrete surface against further chloride attack.
- 3.2.12 During the works the bus stops would be relocated to the main road (there is adequate of width at this location) and the crescent currently used by buses would be made available to the Contractor. The necessary signage is allowed for in the contract.

3.3 Seaton Bus Station Toilet facility.

- 3.3.1 The existing toilet facility was due to be closed as part of the recommendations made in the cabinet report of 8th January 2007, with this provision being supplied by the new Rocket House facility.
- 3.3.2 It is suggested that this decision be reversed and the toilet facility within the Bus Station be refurbished. This could be done with the remaining budget from the Rocket House scheme and the Bus Station structural repair scheme. This facility could be brought up to current standards, also providing male and female baby change facilities and disabled facilities.
- 3.3.3 As previously highlighted to Cabinet it is the intention not to have attendants within public conveniences in Hartlepool. It was felt that this facility could be refurbished using largely existing fixtures and fittings to maintain the period feel of the facility however it may be necessary to replace with a vandal proof installation. This has been discussed with the authority's conservation officer and has her support as this ensures the continued use of one of Seaton Carew's landmarks.

3.4 Seaton Baths Site Toilets.

- 3.4.1 Concern was previously expressed regarding the implications of the closure of these facilities in terms of public health and the distance between public conveniences along the Coastal Arc. It had therefore been agreed to refurbish these at an estimated cost of £70k.
- 3.4.2 However a tender for the works has been received in the sum of £136k which is substantially higher. To compound this it has been discovered that the drainage system has problems. The facility has a septic tank which requires ongoing maintenance and the drainage from the urinals is not connected to the system at all, and drains into the ground. The site has no parking facilities.
- 3.4.3 It is therefore suggested that this facility be demolished, the area being made good and landscaped to match the existing with a new facility built near the car park adjacent the Newburn Bridge. The site lies outside the conservation area and can therefore be developed via a more straightforward design.

This car park is frequently used by walkers and sightseers as a stopping off point. It is felt that this will be a more appropriate position for a facility as it bisects the Seaton Carew/Marina half way point. The estimated cost for this scheme would be £120,000 excluding fees etc.

3.5 Hartlepool Maritime Experience facility

- 3.5.1 Demolition of the Hartlepool Maritime Experience facility and the marketing of the site with any capital receipt to be reinvested for the improvement of public convenience provision had been previously agreed.

- 3.5.2 However it was identified that the main gas meter house for the Hartlepool Maritime Experience is situated in this building. Therefore if the building were to be demolished the gas main would need to be re-routed and a new meter house constructed. This would add a significant cost to the demolition work in addition to the operational disruption to the site.
- 3.5.3 In discussions with the Adult and Community Services Department it was suggested that the Hartlepool Maritime Experience toilet block be retained and used by them but adapted for store space etc. The museums service requested this as they have a significant shortage of storage space.
- 3.5.4 This option gives the building a new and necessary use, and negates the requirement for a major gas main diversion.
- 3.5.5 Works will include any essential works to maintain to integrity of the fabric.
- 3.5.6 The estimated total cost for this work is £28,322 excluding fees.

3.6 Thorpe Street and Pilot Pier facilities.

- 3.6.1 Closure of the Thorpe Street and Pilot Pier facilities and their securing with aesthetic materials. Work Complete. Actual cost £3,740.

3.7 Refurbishment and upgrade the Lighthouse (Heugh Battery) facilities

- 3.7.1 Order placed with Gus Robinson Developments. Estimated cost £33,955.

3.8 Albert Street facility.

- 3.8.1 We will not undertake work to the Albert Street facility. The demolition of this property will be carried out by Hartlepool College of Further Education as part of their new build programme.

3.9 Seaton Park facilities.

- 3.9.1 Essential maintenance works completed at the Seaton Park facilities. Actual cost £450.

3.10 Ward Jackson Park Facilities

- 3.10.1 The demolition of the toilet facilities and making good of the site in Ward Jackson Park, with the toilets in the café being made available to all public during the opening hours of the park was agreed previously.
- 3.10.2 The opening times of the café in the park are limited, therefore this option was found not to be feasible due to the cost of opening the facility at off peak times.

- 3.10.3 The suggested alternative is to upgrade the existing toilet facility within the park to current standards. The estimated total cost for this work is £42,900 excluding fees etc.

3.11 Rossmere Park: Improvements to the facilities

- 3.11.1 An order has been placed with R.I Construction. The estimated cost for this work is £45,366.00 excluding fees etc.

3.12 Upper Burn Valley

- 3.12.1 Demolition and making good the site in the Upper Burn Valley. The estimated cost for this work is £18,000.00 excluding fees etc.

3.13 Lower Burn Valley facility

- 3.13.1 Maintenance of the Lower Burn Valley facility. No works now planned.

3.14 Stranton Cemetery Main Facility.

- 3.14.1 Introduction of adequate heating, together with routine and planned maintenance to the Stranton Cemetery main facility. The estimated total cost for this work is £5000.00 excluding fees.

3.15 West View Cemetery main facility.

- 3.15.1 Maintenance of existing facilities at West View Cemetery. The actual total cost for this work is £1,430.

3.16 Timescale.

- 3.16.1 Due to the issues raised above it will now not be possible to complete all of the said works within the current financial year. The amount to be carried over into the next financial year will be dependent on the outcome of this meeting.

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The overall allocated budget for the public Conveniences works is £405,000 (this excludes the budget for the structural works to the Bus Station).
- 4.2 Since completion of the previous cabinet report, the detailed design process and further site investigations has revealed a number of issues with the original proposals that will, if we continue, increase this figure to £2,379,182 inclusive of fees etc. The majority of this increase is due the required sea defences at the Rocket house site.

- 4.3 The new proposals outlined above will still increase the required funding to £591,603 (inclusive of fees etc) however this will increase the number and quality of facilities available for public use.
- 4.4 Built into the original proposals was a revenue saving of £55k in respect of Clock Tower attendants wages and it is now proposed to use all this revenue saving to fund the prudential borrowing required for all of the proposals including the additional works.
 - 4.4.1 The amount of additional borrowing could be assisted by any saving made on the concrete repairs to the Clock Tower although this is from a different funding source.
- 4.5 Detailed financial projections can be seen at appendices A & B.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Cabinet note progress on the public convenience provision.
- 5.2 Cabinet note the development and refurbishment of the Seaton Carew Clock Tower and Shelter.
- 5.3 Cabinet's views are sought on the following recommendations:-
 - a) That the public conveniences at the Rocket House should now be demolished with the area being landscaped and the Clock Tower toilets refurbished as part of the master plan for the area in conjunction with the structural concrete repairs.
 - b) That the Hartlepool Maritime Experience toilet block should be retained and adapted for use by the museums service as storage space.
 - c) That the Seaton Baths facility be demolished the area being made good and landscaped to match the existing with a new facility being built near the car park adjacent the Newburn Bridge.
 - d) That the existing toilet facility within Ward Jackson Park be retained and upgraded to current standards.

APPENDIX A

Appendix A

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES PROJECTS - WORK AGREED AT CABINET 8TH JAN 07**CABINET REPORT 8th January 2007****FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS**

Item	Description	Allocated Budget	Revised Estimated Costs	Design Fees at 12.5%	CDM Fees 2%	Contingencies	Estimated total costs including asbestos surveys and statutory approvals.	Actual Costs	NOTES
	Closure of Thorpe Street & Pilot Pier	£4,500	£4,500	N.A.	N.A.		£4,500	£3,740	Works completed. Order placed with GRD
	Refurbishment of Lighthouse	£6,000	£28,322	£3,540	N.A.	£1,416	£33,955		
	Seaton Park - Essential Maintenance only	£5,000	£5,000	£0	N.A.	£0	£5,000	£450	Works completed.
	Ward Jackson Park - Refurbishment (Originally demolition)	£6,000	£42,900	£5,363	£858	£2,145	£52,055		Awaiting approval. Order placed with RI Construction
	Rossmere Park	£50,000	£45,366	£5,671	£907	£2,268	£55,095		Works being priced
	Upper Burn Valley - Demolition	£6,000	£18,000	£2,250	£360	£900	£21,510		Works being priced
	Stranton Cemetery - Provide heating to toilets	£5,000	£5,000	£625	N.A.	£250	£5,875		
	West View Cemetery - Essential Maintenance	£1,500	£1,500	N.A.		£75	£1,500	£1,430	Works completed.
	Historic Quay - Change of use (originally demolition)	£10,000	£28,500	£3,563	N.A.		£32,063		Awaiting approval.
	Albert Street facilities - Essential Maintenance only	£1,000							Sale of land to College of F.E.
	Lower Burn Valley - Improvement - Maintenance	£10,000							No works planned
	Seaton Baths - Refurbishment	£70,000	£138,929	£17,366	£2,779	£6,946	£166,761		See report
	Clock Tower - Essential Maintenance	£1,500	£5,000	£625	£100	£250	£5,975		See report.
	Rocket House New Build	£228,500	£1,666,500	£208,313	£33,330	£83,325	£1,991,468		
	Total Budget	£405,000	£1,989,517	£247,315	£38,334	£97,575	£2,375,757		

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES PROJECTS- PROPOSED WORKS.**CABINET REPORT 8th January 2007****FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS**

Item	Description	Estimated Costs	Design Fees at 12.5%	CDM Fees 2%	Contingencies	Estimated total costs including asbestos surveys and statutory approvals.	Actual Costs	NOTES
	Closure of Thorpe Street & Pilot Pier	£4,500	N.A	N.A.		£4,500	£3,740	Works completed. Order placed with GRD
	Refurbishment of Lighthouse	£28,322	£3,540	N.A.	£1,416	£33,955		
	Seaton Park - Essential Maintenance only	£5,000	£0	N.A.	£0	£5,000	£450	Works completed.
	Ward Jackson Park - Refurbishment (Originally demolition)	£42,900	£5,363	£858	£2,145	£52,055		Awaiting approval Order placed with RI Construction
	Rossmere Park	£45,366	£5,671	£907	£2,268	£55,095		Works being priced
	Upper Burn Valley - Demolition	£18,000	£2,250	£360	£900	£21,510		Works being priced
	Stranton Cemetery - Provide heating to toilets	£5,000	£625	N.A.	£250	£5,875		
	West View Cemetery - Essential Maintenance	£1,500	N.A		£75	£1,500	£1,430	Works completed. Awaiting approval.
	Historic Quay - Change of use (originally demolition)	£28,500	£3,563	N.A.		£32,063		
	Clock Tower - Toilet refurbishment.	£100,000	£12,500	£2,000	£5,000	£119,500		Estimated costs. Works being priced
	Rocket House toilet demolition	£15,000	£1,875	£300	£750	£17,925		
	Rocket House landscaping	£90,000	9000	1800	4500	£105,300		Estimated costs.
	New building Newburn Bridge	£120,000	£15,000	£2,400	£6,000	£143,400		Estimated costs.
	Total Budget	£504,088	£59,386	£8,625	£23,304	£593,178		

CABINET REPORT

22nd January 2008



Report of: Director of Regeneration and Planning Services and
Director of Neighbourhood Services and
Director of Adult and Community Services

Subject: SEATON CAREW ASSET MANAGEMENT ISSUES

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report refers to various Council land holdings at Seaton Carew and the potential benefits which may be secured from the marketing and development of those land holdings. Possible approaches to marketing those assets are outlined to enable the Cabinet to consider the way forward.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report refers to a range of community needs/opportunities (affordable housing, community facilities, visitor attractions and capital receipts) and a range of property assets at Seaton Carew which might be considered for a coordinated marketing approach to secure developer interest in responding to those needs/opportunities.

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

The report refers to needs/opportunities with potential impacts related to a number of Executive portfolios and with both local and townwide benefits.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non-key

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Cabinet, 22 January, 2008.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

That Cabinet considers the potential marketing of the sites referred to, as a means of addressing the identified needs/opportunities, and if appropriate authorises further work in producing draft marketing particulars and pursuing appropriate stakeholder and public consultation.

Report of: Director of Regeneration and Planning Services
and Director of Neighbourhood Services and
Director of Adult and Community Services

Subject: SEATON CAREW ASSET MANAGEMENT
ISSUES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.2 This report refers to various Council land holdings at Seaton Carew and the potential benefits which may be secured from the marketing and development of those land holdings. Possible approaches to marketing those assets are outlined to enable the Cabinet to consider the way forward.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Officers have been considering a combination of identified local (ie local to Seaton Carew) and town-wide community needs and opportunities and how the Council's land holdings at Seaton Carew might be best utilised to address these. This thinking has been informed by unsolicited informal approaches by prospective developers expressing interest in undertaking developments at Seaton Carew. These matters were also aired, in general terms, during a debate at the Council meeting on 13 December, 2007. Cabinet members may also be aware that the Regeneration Scrutiny Forum is currently considering regeneration issues in Seaton Carew.

3. IDENTIFIED COMMUNITY NEEDS/OPPORTUNITIES

- 3.1 The following relevant needs/opportunities have been identified via a variety of studies and discussions, as indicated.
- a) affordable housing: the housing assessment completed in 2007 indicated a substantial town-wide need for more affordable housing and reports have been brought previously to Cabinet to outline ways in which the Council might bring forward appropriate sites in its ownership for affordable housing.
 - b) improved local community facilities: Seaton Carew currently suffers from a range of dated community facilities including the sports hall and

youth/community centre off Elizabeth Way, library on Station Lane, and many of the facilities within Seaton Park. The recently adopted Indoor Sport Facility Strategy identifies the potential for Seaton to have a new two court sports hall and associated facilities including the need for changing facilities for football pitch use at Dodds Field /Seaton Park. As the current sports hall, library and existing park facilities not only have significant maintenance/repair needs but do not meet modern service expectations, a potential opportunity arises to provide enhanced community facilities for Seaton Carew.

- c) additional visitor attraction(s): both the Hartlepool Tourism Strategy and the Seaton Carew Tourism Strategy have identified the need to expand and diversify Seaton's range of attractions for visitors, especially in the form of indoor facilities which will attract/cater for visitors in wet weather. Such provision would expand Hartlepool's overall visitor offer, complementing the attractions and facilities of the marina, town centre, and the Headland, as well as Seaton Carew itself.
- d) potential capital receipts: the Council's asset management strategy and capital programme continue to place importance on generating a flow of capital receipts from the disposal of assets, to assist in funding future spending plans.

- 3.2 There may therefore be ways of utilising the Council's property holdings to generate a series of benefits which collectively represent a significant enhancement on existing services and facilities. Cabinet members will appreciate that there may well be benefits in considering at least some of the above aspirations jointly, e.g. the grouping of certain facilities within the same building to achieve economies of scale and future management, repair and maintenance.

4. COUNCIL ASSETS AT SEATON CAREW

- 4.1 The Council owns various sites and buildings at Seaton Carew which may lend themselves to a comprehensive marketing approach to attract developer interest, not only in providing commercially viable development but also addressing some of the above needs/opportunities.

- 4.2 Assets which may be considered in this report are:

- a) site off Elizabeth Way (**see Appendix 1**). This site is currently occupied by the youth/community centre, the sports hall and surrounding open space and amounts to 1 ha. The existing caretaker's house is a tied house and the current incumbent is due to retire, it would therefore be an opportunity to incorporate this

house and garden within the potential development site. The adjacent Seaton Carew Nursery School is not included in the potential site: its future will be considered as part of the Primary School capital review during 2008. In the event that appropriate replacement sports facilities could be provided (either in situ or elsewhere in Seaton Carew), this site would be appropriate in planning policy terms for residential development, which might include an element of affordable housing.

- b) Seaton Carew park and library site (**see Appendix 2**). As already indicated, the park and the library both feature outdated facilities and there may well be scope for some redevelopment of part of the park/library area to provide new facilities. It would be important to demonstrate that any such proposals improve the quality of sports/recreation/leisure provision, so as to satisfy Sport England as well as local users and organisations.
- c) “Seaton Sands” site and other sea front sites (**see Appendix 3**). Cabinet has received previous reports on the potential marketing and development of the “Seaton Sands” site (comprising the car park, former fairground site and land behind Seaton bus station) for a mixed use development including visitor attraction facilities. In addition, the site north of the Longscar Centre is identified in the Hartlepool Local Plan for commercial and recreational development whilst the Rocket House car park site may also have a role to play in facilitating broader development proposals (subject to an adequacy of overall parking provision being maintained.) The prospect of short-term marketing and development of these sea-front sites is, however, limited by the need to address coast defence issues, in the light of recent evidence of accelerating problems. Because of sea level rise (global warming) in the long term, given the seemingly escalating degree of beach lowering witnessed in the recent past by wall breaches in 2006/2007 there is no doubt that very significant lengths of sea wall fronting sand beaches, particularly at Seaton, will be affected in the short to medium term. The original Shoreline Management Plan (confirmed by the recent review) supported the preparation of a strategy study for this section of coastline. Funding for this has recently been secured from Defra and the procurement process is currently being progressed. The strategy study is very relevant to the current situation as it will address the full range of technical, environmental, climatic and financial issues, to produce a more detailed framework for ongoing maintenance and future viable capital works. It is anticipated that the study results will be available in the order of 18 months time to better inform the Asset Management decisions, but they will probably indicate significant upgrading in height and mass of walls to give more robust structures. Funding issues for coast

protection schemes are complex and involve the environment agency, but the SMP, 2006 indicates a possibility of favourable cost benefit which may attract grant funding for some elements of the work, although this cannot be guaranteed. Without this, any schemes will present a very significant financial burden on this authority, or other parties as appropriate.

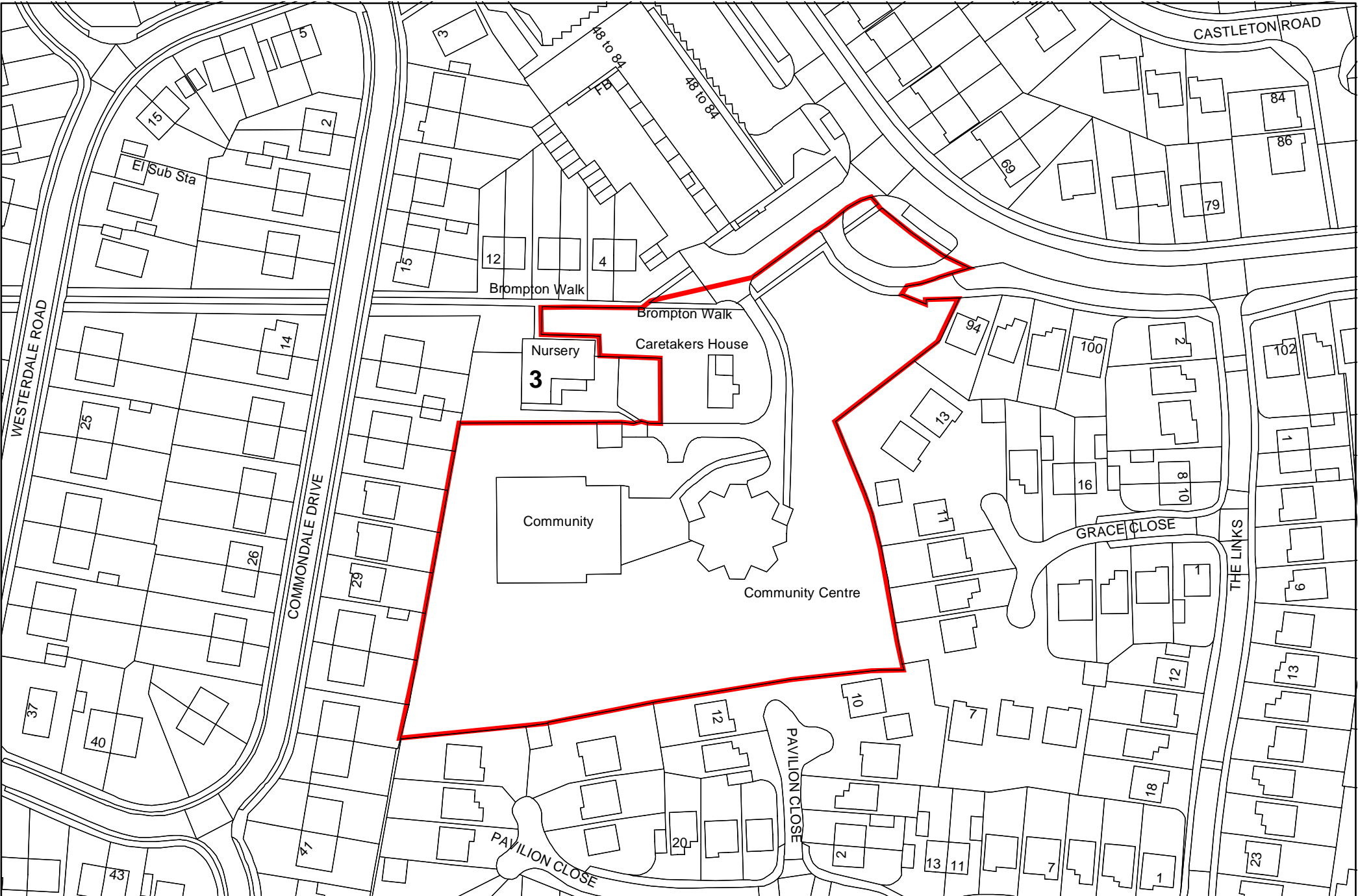
- d) site off Coronation Drive (**see Appendix 4**). Cabinet has already received a report identifying this site as one of three potential Council-owned sites to be considered for affordable housing development. To date discussions with registered social landlords have focussed more on the other two sites, given the potential ground condition problems with this Coronation Drive site, but it may be appropriate to integrate this site within any comprehensive marketing package relating to Seaton Carew property.
- e) Whilst the cost of contamination remediation on this site may mitigate against affordable housing, any development would need to weigh up the costs of dealing with contamination in the financial assessment of viability of any housing development.

5. POTENTIAL MARKETING APPROACH

- 5.1 Taking into account the needs/opportunities set out in Section 3 and the sites referred to in section 4, it would be feasible to explore the marketing of the sites as a means to addressing the needs/opportunities. Thus, for example, developers may come forward with proposals which utilise the Elizabeth Waysite for new housing, including affordable housing, and the park/library areas to bring forward enhanced community facilities; the sea front sites, conversely, maybe used to bring forward new visitor attractions subject to the coast defence issues being adequately addressed. Given the range of potential development options, it maybe prudent to approach any marketing exercise in a flexible way, allowing for developers to submit proposals for all or only certain sites, but on the underlying principle that we cannot suffer any loss of facilities without committed and agreed replacements.
- 5.2 However, full guidance on the coast protection issues cannot be given until the Coast Protection Strategy Study has been undertaken and published, probably in mid 2009, but it is feasible that an indication of the implications will become clear as the study progresses.
- 5.3 If members wish to pursue this approach in principle, it would be necessary to engage in consultation with relevant interested parties and in public consultation on marketing particulars which could indicate the needs/opportunities to be met, the sites available, relevant planning policy and development brief considerations.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 That Cabinet considers the potential marketing of the sites referred to, as a means of addressing the identified needs/opportunities, and if appropriate authorises further work in producing draft marketing particulars and pursuing appropriate stakeholder and public consultation.

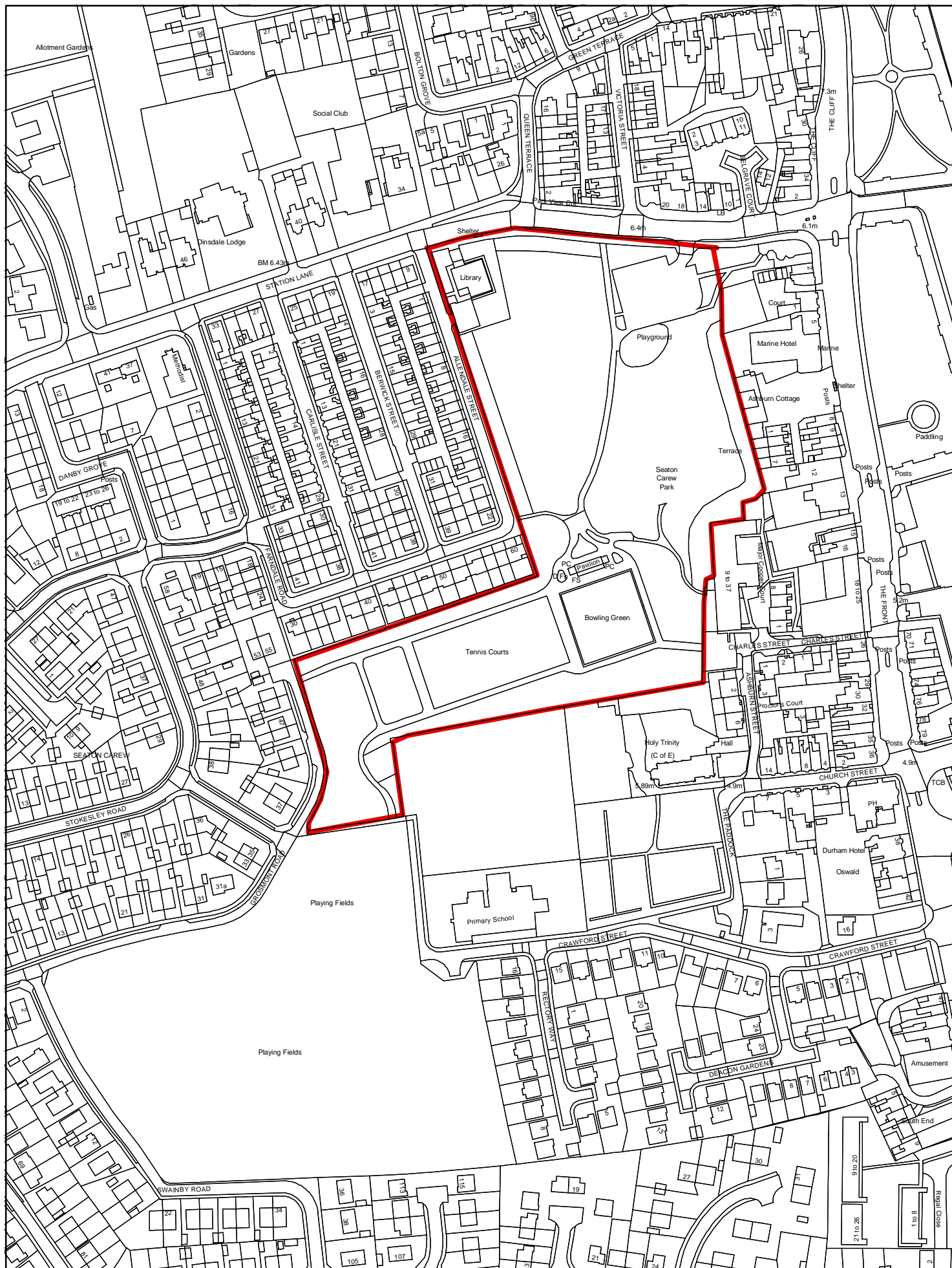


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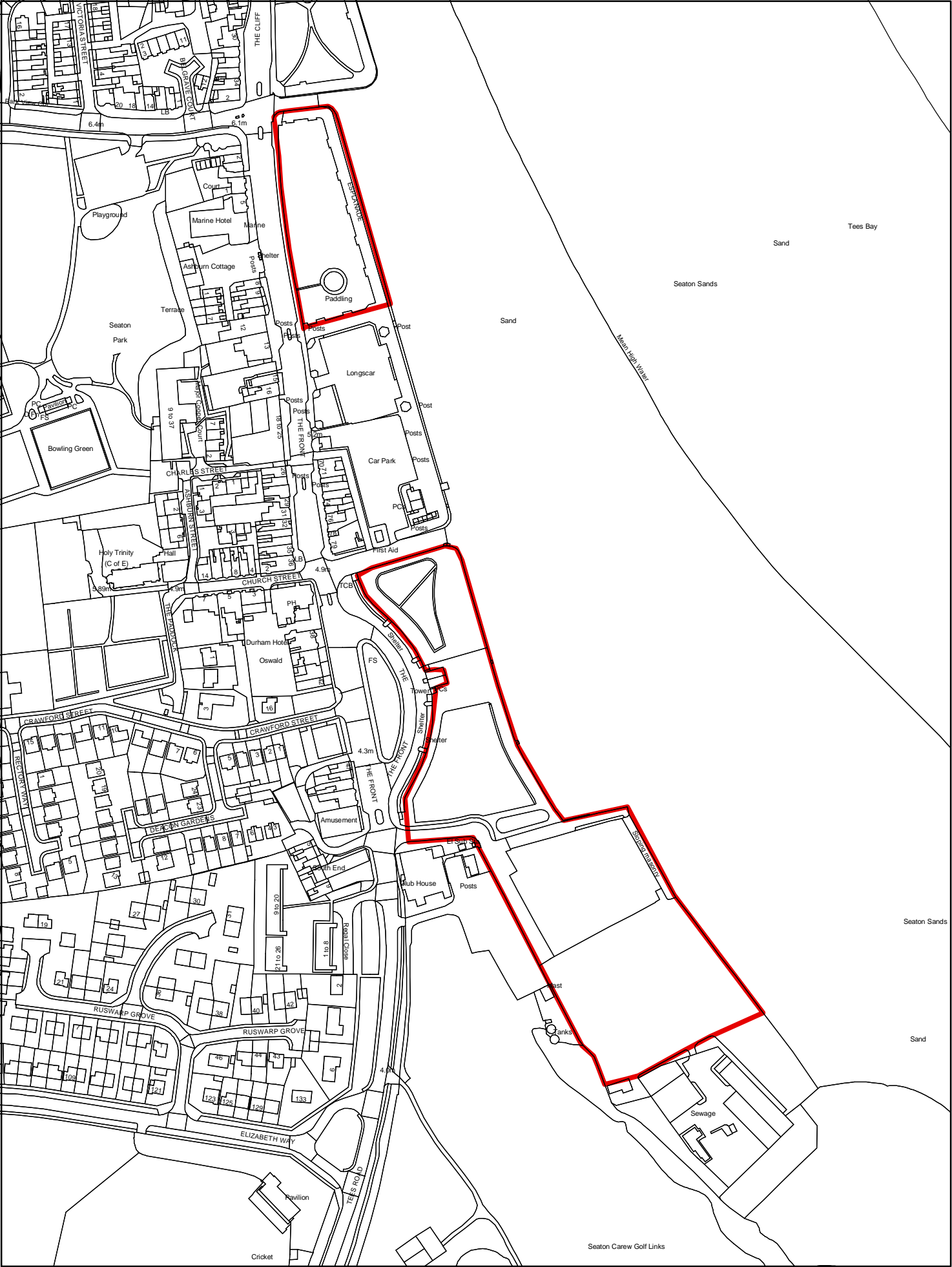


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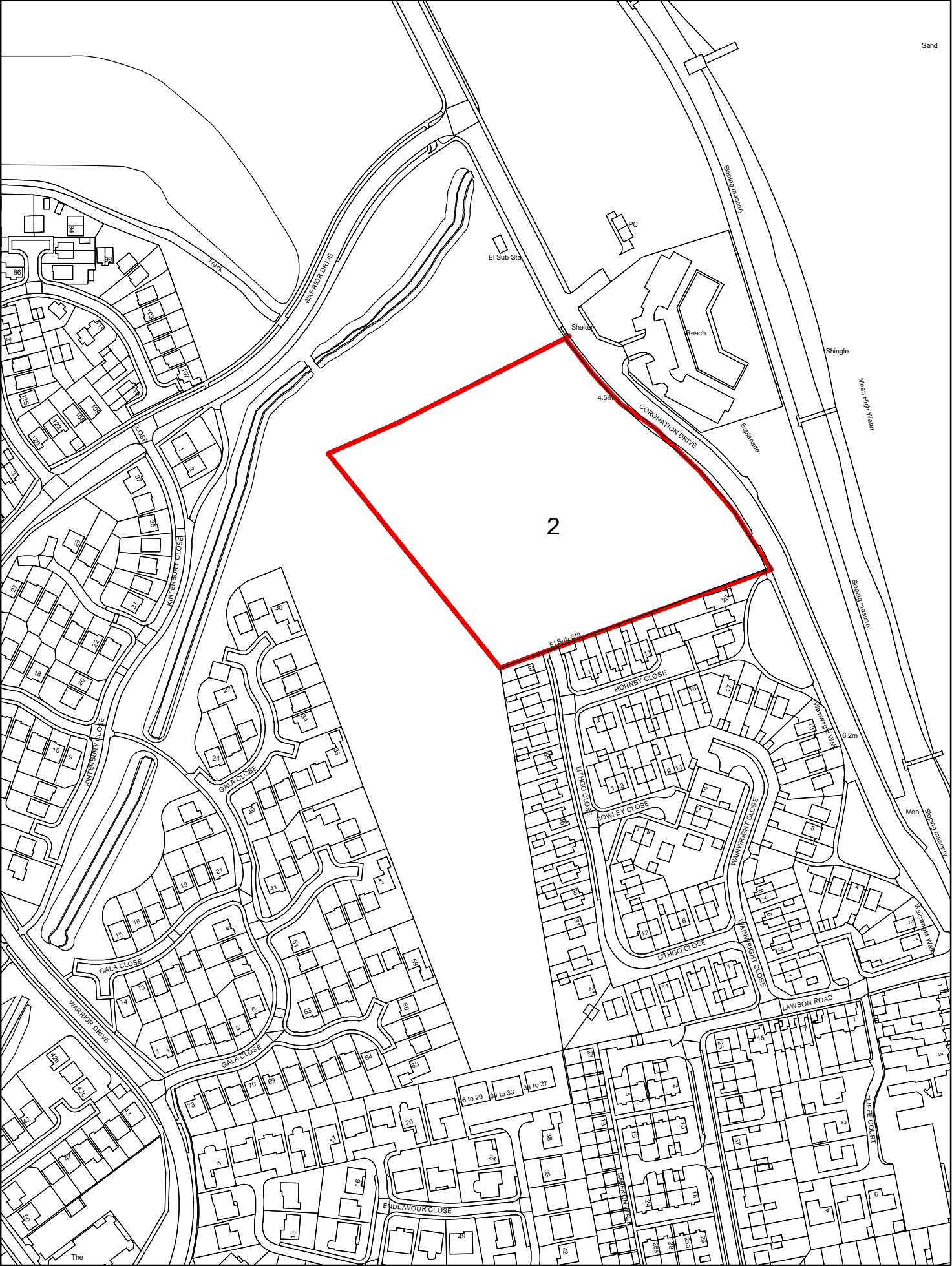


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CABINET REPORT

22nd January 2008



Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the Annual Performance Assessment of Children's Services provided by Ofsted.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The Council has maintained its Grade 3 rating for Children's Services which was given at the time of the Joint Area Review (March 2007). It is judged to be delivering consistently above minimum requirements with good capacity for further improvement.

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

The APA is a key judgment on Council performance, and forms part of the annual CPA rating. It must be reported to an appropriate public meeting of the Council.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non key – for information.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Cabinet 22 January 2008.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

To note the report.

Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT OF
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the Annual Performance Assessment of Children's Services provided by Ofsted.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Ofsted is required by section 138 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to undertake an annual review of each Council's Children's Services and to award a performance rating for them. The Annual Performance Assessment discharges these duties. The rating awarded is also used as the rating for the Children and Young People's block in the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) of Local Authority services.

2.2 The Annual Performance Assessment in 2007 made judgements about:

- the Council's Children's Services and the specific contributions being made to improving outcomes for children and young people.
- the contributions services made to improving each of the five Every Child Matters outcome areas.
- the Council's capacity to improve these services.

2.3 In 2007 the Council was required by statute to review the progress made in implementing the first Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) in order to demonstrate improving outcomes for children and young people. This review of the CYPP was used to provide key evidence for the APA.

2.4 The APA, together with the Health Care Commission's annual assessment of health care bodies and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's baseline assessment of Strategic Police Authorities, will contribute significantly to the scoping of subsequent Joint Area Reviews. It acts as a risk assessment, identifying weaker aspects of work that present a risk or barrier to further improvement. The APA also assesses progress from any previous Joint Area Review.

3. PROCESS

3.1 The 2007 APA was carried out by 2 Ofsted Inspectors with backgrounds in education and social care who:

- Scrutinised the review of the CYPP, briefings by Ofsted, other inspectorates and any other supporting information.
- Liaised with colleagues in Ofsted or other inspectorates and Government departments to clarify information and discuss emerging themes or issues.
- Spent 2 days in September analysing data sets, the Tellus survey of children and young people in schools and the Audit Commission Survey of Schools Views of their Local Authority.
- Spent one day in September on-site carrying out interviews and further analysis visit to the Local Authority and
- Spent 4 days completing an APA notebook undertaking quality assurance activities and drafting the final letter which includes the outcomes of the assessment.

4. OUTCOMES

The letter summarising the outcomes of the 2007 Annual Performance Assessment for Hartlepool is attached as **Appendix 1**. The judgments draw on the review of the Children and Young People's Plan, the Action Plan arising from the Joint Area Review and the evidence and briefings provided by Ofsted, other inspectorates and relevant bodies. The letter comments on the progress since the recent Joint Area Review. In summary:

- Overall effectiveness of Children's Services - Grade 3 (Good).
- Being Healthy - Grade 3 (Good).
- Staying Safe - Grade 3 (Good).
- Enjoy and Achieve - Grade 3 (Good).
- Making a Positive Contribution - Grade 3 (Good).
- Achieving Economic Well-being - Grade 3 (Good).
- Capacity to improve including the management of services for children and young people - Grade 3 (Good).

In terms of overall effectiveness, Ofsted judged that Hartlepool Borough Council consistently delivers above minimum standards. The Council has responded positively to the recommendations raised in the Joint Area Review report and has made good progress since that time. The Council's services for children and young people are well co-ordinated and managed and there is a clear focus on and commitment to improving the lives and life opportunities of children and young people. Ofsted commented that the Council capitalises on the advantages of its small size and adopts appropriate strategies to meet the challenges this brings. Outcomes are improving and are generally better than those achieved in similar local authority areas. Ofsted commented positively that children and young

people's views are sought and increasingly used to influence decisions. Their needs are rigorously assessed and services personalised so that each individual can be healthy, be safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well being. The Local Authority knows its strengths and has a clear appreciation of what it needs to do to improve further. Ofsted highlighted a number of significant factors which demonstrate the Council's good capacity to improve:

- The quality of senior leadership and management.
- Very strong partnership working.
- The overall trend in improvements which have led to the good progress since the Joint Area Review.

5. AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

The following areas for further development were agreed with Ofsted having already identified in the CYPP review and as part of the self assessment for APA:

- Be healthy
 - Reduce the number of teenage conceptions for 17 year olds
 - Improve the breastfeeding take-up rates
 - Reduce the proportion of expectant mothers smoking during pregnancy
- Staying Safe
 - Improve performance management systems for social care
 - Reduce the numbers of looked after children and young people
- Enjoying and Achieving
 - Improve the performance of secondary school pupils particularly at Key Stage 3 and in gaining 5 or more GCSEs at Grades A*-C, including English and mathematics
 - Improve performance of boys especially in relation to literacy
- Making a Positive Contribution
 - Reduce the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system
- Achieving Economic Well-being
 - Reduce the numbers of young people who are not in education, employment or training.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 That the Annual Performance Assessment of Children's Services be noted.

7. CONTACT OFFICER

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26 November 2007

Mrs Adrienne Simcock
Director of Children's Services
Hartlepool Borough Council
Civic Centre
Victoria Road
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Dear Mrs Simcock

2007 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

This letter summarises the findings of the 2007 annual performance assessment for your local authority. The judgements in the letter draw on your review of the Children and Young People's Plan, your action plan arising from the joint area review and the evidence and briefings provided by Ofsted, other inspectorates and relevant bodies. The letter comments on progress since the recent joint area review. We are grateful for the information you provided to support this process and for the time given by you and your colleagues during the assessment.

Overall effectiveness of children's services

Grade 3

Hartlepool Borough Council consistently delivers above minimum standards. The council has responded positively to the recommendations raised in the joint area review report and has made good progress since that time. Its services for children and young people are well coordinated and managed. There is a clear focus upon, and a commitment to, improving the lives and life opportunities of children and young people across Hartlepool. The council capitalises on the advantages of the small size of the authority and adopts appropriate strategies to meet the challenges this brings. Outcomes are improving and are generally better than those achieved in similar areas. Children and young people's views are sought and increasingly used to influence decisions. Their needs are rigorously assessed and services personalised so that each individual can be healthy, be safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being. The local authority knows its strengths and has a clear appreciation of what it needs to do to improve further. A number of significant factors demonstrate the council's good capacity to improve: the quality of senior leadership

and management, very strong partnership working and the overall trend in improvements which have led to the good progress made since the joint area review.

Being healthy

Grade 3

Summary of strengths and areas for development

The contribution of the council's services to improving outcomes for children and young people in this aspect is good. One recommendation emerged from the joint area review.

For action over the longer term

- Improve the provision of occupational therapy and speech and language therapy services.

Since the joint area review, the council, working with schools and its own special educational needs service, has increased the provision of occupational therapy and speech and language therapy services.

Good progress has been made in schools achieving national Healthy Schools Status and participation levels are very good, both being above comparator councils and the national average. No early years providers were issued with actions relating to health at registration or at inspection. Performance in this area is also better than comparators and the national average. There is good performance by schools in enabling learners to be healthy with most judged to be good or outstanding.

The conception rate amongst 15–17 year olds has risen and is well above that of comparator councils and the national average. Historically Hartlepool has had high levels of teenage pregnancies and although a well-founded teenage pregnancy strategy is in place, its impact has been limited. The council has performed better in reducing the number of conceptions for under 16 year olds, which is now generally in line with comparator councils. The council has identified and is now targeting resources at 17 year olds in order to reduce conception rates for this age group. The numbers of mothers choosing to breast-feed continues to improve but are significantly lower than comparators. The percentage of mothers known to smoke through pregnancy has dropped steadily, although this remains higher than comparator councils and the national average. All GP surgeries provide services to monitor children's health. Access to health visiting and midwifery services, which are delivered from children's centres across the borough, has improved. Chlamydia screening programmes, delivered from a number of community settings, are now well established and this has improved identification and early treatment.

Healthcare for looked after children and young people is good; for example, the number receiving an annual health check is better than comparators and the national average. Social care services for children and young people employ a designated nurse for looked after children and vulnerable children and this has led to improved communication and integrated working.

There is good access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) for looked after children and young offenders, and 24-hour coverage for children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The CAMHS deals with new non-specialist cases, which need to be seen within 26 weeks, more quickly than happens nationally. However, there has been a small deterioration in the percentage of CAMHS new cases which are seen within four weeks. The drugs education team, which is jointly commissioned with two other councils, works effectively with the healthy schools team. Screening, referral and early intervention processes for substance misuse are in place for all key risk groups.

Areas for development

- Reduce the number of teenage conceptions for 17 year olds.
- Improve the breast-feeding take-up rates.
- Reduce the proportion of expectant mothers smoking during pregnancy.

Staying safe

Grade 3

Summary of strengths and areas for development

The contribution of the council's services to improving outcomes for children and young people in this aspect is good. Two recommendations emerged from the joint area review.

For immediate action

- Develop inter-agency guidance in relation to thresholds for referrals for children's social care.

For action in the next six months

- Improve joint commissioning and contracting arrangements in relation to out of authority placements for looked after children.

The council has made very good progress and has effectively addressed these two joint area review recommendations. Since the joint area review, the council has developed and implemented guidance in relation to thresholds for referrals for children and young people's social care. A comprehensive review has been undertaken of joint commissioning and contracting arrangements and budgets for out-of-borough placements have been aligned.

The local children and young people's safeguarding board is well established. Additional funding has been agreed with member agencies to employ a training officer and a development officer to further develop the board's remit. Good arrangements are in place to share information and multi-agency public protection arrangements work well.

There has been an increase in the number of referrals made to the council. Referral rates are significantly higher than comparator and national averages. However, the number of referrals that proceed to an initial assessment has fallen and is well below the level of comparator councils. This would indicate that systems to screen initial referrals at the time of receipt are not sufficiently robust to separate out appropriate referrals from other contacts made. The council achieves good performance in respect of the percentage of re-referrals that are repeat referrals within 12 months. This is better than comparator councils and the national average. The number of core assessments undertaken has fallen but remains comparatively high in relation to similar councils and the national picture. The council's performance in the number of initial assessments carried out within seven days and core assessments within 35 days is very good and is above both comparator and national figures. The number of initial child protection case conferences has continued to fall, although this is still above the level of comparator councils and the national average. The number of children who are the subject of a child protection plan or who are on the Child Protection Register as at 31 March, rose in 2006-07 to a level which is significantly above comparator councils and the national average. However, across the year there has been a fall in the number of children who became subject of a child protection plan, or who were registered, significantly closing the gap between Hartlepool and comparator councils.

The number of children and young people killed or seriously injured in road accidents has reduced by 58% from the 1994-98 average; this is better than comparator councils and the national average.

The welfare of looked after children and young people is safeguarded well and all looked after children and young people are allocated to a qualified social worker. The council has seen an above average rise in the numbers of looked after children and young people, but only a small number are accommodated in residential placements because the council has arranged more appropriate foster care. This is a better performance than similar councils and the national average. There has been a fall in the number of children fostered by relatives and friends. However, this reduction needs to be viewed within the context of the council's support for the use of residence orders. The fostering service received an inspection judgement of good with regard to staying safe.

Areas for development

- Improve performance management systems for social care.
- Reduce the numbers of looked after children and young people.

Enjoying and achieving

Grade 3

Summary of strengths and areas for development

The contribution of the council's services to improving outcomes for children and young people in this aspect is good. Two recommendations emerged from the joint area review.

For action in the next six months

- Improve the quality of provision for children and young people with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties in order to meet their needs.
- Improve the quality of provision for pupils excluded from secondary schools and the rates of re-integration into mainstream schools.

The council has taken urgent and appropriate action to meet the findings of the joint area review and significant improvements have already been made in relation to both recommendations.

Overall outcomes for children and young people are improving. Educational standards are above the national average and are in line with or above similar councils. Gaps in attainment between different groups are narrowing, though the performance of boys at all key stages remains an area of concern especially in relation to literacy. In 2006, there were improvements in pupils' performance. There was an increase in the proportion of young people attaining Level 5 or above at Key Stage 3 in mathematics and science, for example, and a rise in the proportion of young people gaining five A* to C grades at GCSE. However, despite such improvements, the figures for children and young people gaining key levels of attainment are lower than national averages; for example, Level 5 or above in English, mathematics and science at Key Stage 3, and gaining five good grades at GCSE including English and mathematics. The authority is clear in its ambition of wanting to secure further improvements in standards and its plans and actions reflect this priority. Intervention strategies are in place to tackle such issues as secondary standards and boys' writing and the council's recent analysis indicates that some progress is being made.

Under a Service Level Agreement, Catcote Special School is making provision to meet the needs of secondary aged children and young people with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. Formal consultations are now taking place regarding the longer term designation of the school from 2008 to accommodate those secondary pupils who would benefit. A Primary Behaviour Group has been formed and is working with primary schools to agree provision for primary aged pupils with similar educational needs.

The council has taken speedy and robust action to improve provision for excluded pupils. There is one pupil referral unit in the authority, which is part of the Access to Learning (A2L) service, and the headteacher of Catcote Special School has recently been appointed as its 'executive' headteacher. A partnership between A2L and Catcote has strengthened leadership and management capacity at the unit and work is in progress to raise standards and to improve teaching and learning. At the same time, the rate of re-integration of permanently excluded pupils into mainstream settings has improved and the numbers of pupils who are permanently excluded has fallen sharply. Staff from Catcote School are supporting colleagues in all mainstream secondary schools. As a result, the authority is creating effective all-round provision. This involves specific provision for excluded pupils at A2L as well as an outreach facility to support pupils in other schools who are at risk of exclusion.

Children and young people enjoy school. Attendance is rising, behaviour is good and exclusions are falling. Inspection findings reveal a positive picture with substantially good or better grades being awarded for all aspects and with the authority as a whole performing better than comparator authorities. Support for schools is good resulting in a low proportion of schools causing concern. Two schools were removed from Ofsted categories but the pupil referral unit became subject to a category. Out-of-school hours learning opportunities are offered by all schools; this is better than statistical neighbours and the national average. The council is sensitive to the needs of vulnerable pupils and is clearly focused upon improving their educational achievement. Support for children and young people who are looked after or have learning difficulties and/or disabilities is good and inspection evidence notes that progress made by learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is predominantly good or better. This compares favourably with statistical neighbours.

Areas for development

- Improve the performance of secondary school pupils particularly at Key Stage 3 and in gaining five or more GCSEs at Grades A* to C, including English and mathematics.
- Improve the performance of boys especially in relation to literacy.

Making a positive contribution

Grade 3

Summary of strengths and areas for development

The contribution of the council's services to improving outcomes for children and young people in this aspect is good. No recommendations emerged from the joint area review.

The council has very good levels of children's participation and consultation and there is a wide range of mentoring systems and support programmes in schools. Children and young people are able to contribute towards scrutiny forums and are helping to shape some council services. There are good opportunities for children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to make a positive contribution. There is good support for children and young people to be involved in reviews of their statements of special educational needs. Judgements at school inspections as to the extent to which learners make a positive contribution overall are good. The percentage of young people reached by publicly funded youth services has fallen but remains above comparator and national averages.

Effective corporate parenting is a strong feature of Hartlepool council, as is its demonstrable commitment to ensuring that looked after children and young people take part in reviews about what should happen next to them. In this latter respect, its performance is better than the national average, although slightly below comparator councils. Looked after children and young people are supported to contribute to a wider scrutiny of how well children's services work. To help them find their voice,

children and young people have access to a good independent advocacy service. All care leavers have an allocated personal adviser and a pathway plan in place.

The youth offending service makes good use of local and regional partnerships and is an integral part of provision in the Tees Valley. It provides a good range of activities for young people who are at risk of offending, and reparation projects for those who do offend. Work with families and individual young people is particularly effective, helping to reduce offending behaviour and raise self-esteem. Youth Justice Board prevention funding has enabled the establishment of youth inclusion projects in two areas of the town and Children's Services have enabled a number of linked projects to work together upon community regeneration initiatives. These are the Hartlepool intervention programme, the family intervention project and the youth inclusion projects. These provide multi-agency resources to address the needs of families receiving support from the council. Levels of youth offending and youth re-offending saw an increase in the cohort from 2001-02. However, between 2002 and 2003 the cohort figures for both indicators dropped and are in line with comparators. The number of first-time entrants to the youth justice system has increased by 20% and at a higher rate than comparators. The council reports that this increase is partially due to changes in neighbourhood policing with police officers having less discretion about action taken.

Area for development

- Reduce the number of first-time entrants to the youth justice system.

Achieving economic well-being

Grade 3

Summary of strengths and areas for development

The contribution of the council's services to improving outcomes for children and young people in this aspect is good. One recommendation emerged from the joint area review.

For action in the longer term

- Develop a wider range of courses for post-16 young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Although some of the work is at an early stage, much has already been done to improve provision for young people aged 16 and over who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The council has consulted parents about possible developments and acquired additional funding from a number of organisations to support a range of appropriate projects and initiatives, such as the 'Hot Project' and 'Connect to Work'. The transitional support strategy has been strengthened to ensure that all young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are supported through the transition from Key Stage 4 to their next stage, and that essential information is shared with their new providers. Much of this new provision is centred on Catcote Special School. To meet the needs of these young people a range of vocational courses is being

developed at the school and there is a strong emphasis upon work-related learning opportunities. Young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are also supported in their education and training by the Connexions Service and this helps to ensure that their entitlement to personal welfare and benefit support is also met.

Actions taken to prepare young people for working life are good; inspection evidence, for example, reveals that schools are principally good or better on 'the extent to which they enable young people to achieve economic well-being'. This is much higher than statistical neighbours. More young people are continuing in education and training beyond the age of 16; in 2006/07, for example, 86.4% of young people completing Year 11 continued in learning as opposed to 85.8% in the previous year. The percentage of young people achieving both Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications by the age of 19 is also improving and is above statistical neighbours. Achievement levels are rising, the gap with national averages is closing and the average point scores of students entered for GCE/VCE/A/AS is above both statistical neighbours and the national average. Although the underlying trends in relation to participation, progression and retention are improving, the proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training has risen and is above the national average. The percentage of young people aged 16–18 who are not in education, employment or training, for example, rose from 10.0% in 2005/06 to 11.1% in 2006/07. However, the strategies which are being used to reduce this number are beginning to have an effect and current indications show that the percentage is starting to fall. Nevertheless, it remains an area of concern.

Considerable progress has been made in implementing the 14–19 strategy. The council has high aspirations for its young people and the aims of the strategy are well linked to local and regional needs. There is good collaboration between stakeholders, and early indications are that the strategy board and sub-groups comprise an effective structure. There is a clear commitment to partnership work and this is a major strength of the 14–19 approach in this authority. There are good links between educational institutions and employers, and, as a result, young people are well informed of the options available to them. An online prospectus is available for young people and a system is now in place to track the extent to which the prospectus is being accessed by them. The council will be offering one of the diplomas in 2008 and is developing appropriate plans for the introduction of further diplomas in 2009 and beyond.

Area for development

- Reduce the numbers of young people who are not in education, employment or training.

Capacity to improve, including the management of services for children and young people

Grade 3

Summary of strengths and areas for development

The council's capacity to improve its services for children and young people is good, as is its management of these services. Three recommendations emerged from the joint area review.

For action in the next six months

- When the Children and Young People's Plan is reviewed, a high-level assessment of the financial implications should be incorporated.
- Undertake benchmarking of costs on a systematic basis.
- Engage service users in the evaluation of services they receive on a systematic basis.

The council has responded promptly and directly to these recommendations and has taken appropriate action in respect of all of them. The financial implications of the Children and Young People's Plan are now embedded within the plan and associated documents. Systematic benchmarking has been introduced and a mechanism for regular monitoring and reporting through departmental systems has been adopted. A participation strategy and associated procedures for engaging service users in the evaluation of services are in place. The council is continuing with its current good practice of consulting with and involving children and young people in its work. At the same time it is developing strategies with the Children's Trust to strengthen the way in which children and young people can be further engaged in evaluating the services they receive. Although the Tellus2 survey produced a generally positive reply from children in Year 6, the absence of any responses from young people in Years 8 and 10 meant that the views of young people in Hartlepool as revealed by the survey were not as comprehensive as they might have been.

Overall, the management of children's services in Hartlepool is good. There is strong and effective corporate leadership, which is fully engaged in listening to stakeholders and in working positively with its partners at all levels. There is substantial involvement of the voluntary and community sectors. Partnership work is of an exceptional quality and a significant strength of the directorate, as is forward planning. The preparatory work in advance of wave five of Building Schools for the Future is thorough and well focused. The authority is aware of those issues which will impinge directly upon outcomes for children and young people and is actively addressing them. On the whole, schools feel that they are very well served by the authority, though there is some dissatisfaction with levels of support on personnel issues and in relation to information and communication technology. Action is being taken to address both these concerns.

7.1 APPENDIX 1

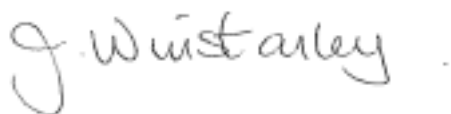
Higher levels of spending upon youth services and education budgets than comparator authorities and the national average serve to reinforce the picture of an authority which has an unambiguous commitment to improving the lives and life chances for children and young people. There has been a detailed review of the Children's and Young People's Plan and there is a clear emphasis upon developing the workforce to meet the priorities of this revision. This is an authority which has the focus, the determination and the capacity to achieve its high level of ambitions and aspirations for its young people.

A number of aspects of the council's support for children and young people needs to be further addressed. The conception rate amongst 15–17 year olds, for example, has risen but the council is targeting its resources appropriately to deal with this issue. The council has accessed additional funding streams to enable the needs of young people to be met and it has been innovative in its appointment of key staff within the directorate. Service delivery and resource management are strong. Performance management is well established. Continuing professional development for staff is a priority. Well-focused leadership and a dedicated staff, combine with the effective progress made since the joint area review to confirm the picture of an authority whose capacity for further improvement is good.

Overall, the council has demonstrated good progress in meeting the joint area review recommendations, and has shown good capacity to maintain and improve further its services for children and young people.

The children's service grade is the performance rating for the purpose of section 138 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. It will also provide the score for the children and young people service block in the comprehensive performance assessment to be published by the Audit Commission.

Yours sincerely



Juliet Winstanley
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