

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

REGENERATION AND LIVEABILITY PORTFOLIO

DECISION SCHEDULE



Friday, 15 February 2008

at 10 am

in the Avondale Centre, Dyke House School,
(Raby Road Entrance)

The Mayor Stuart Drummond responsible for Regeneration and Liveability will consider the following items.

1. **KEY DECISIONS**

None

2. **OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**

2.1 North Sea Interreg Project- Coast Alive – *Director of Regeneration and Planning Services*

2.2 Revision of the Housing Relocation Assistance Policy– *Director of Regeneration and Planning Services*

3. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

3.1 Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) 2007/8 – *Head of Community Strategy*

3.2 Regeneration and Planning Services Departmental Plan 2007/08 – Quarter 3 Monitoring Report – *Director of Regeneration and Planning Services*

4. **REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY FORUMS**

None

REGENERATION & LIVEABILITY PORTFOLIO
Report To Portfolio Holder
15 February 2008



Report of: The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services

Subject: NORTH SEA INTERREG PROJECT- COAST ALIVE

SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The report seeks approval to Hartlepool Borough Council's participation in a North Sea "Interreg" project based around the improved use and promotion of the North Sea coastal cycleway and footpath network.

2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

2.1 The report outlines the objectives and benefits of the Interreg project for Hartlepool. The report also highlights the indicative cost of participation in the programme.

3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

3.1 European Funding Programmes lie within the remit of the Regeneration and Liveability Portfolio Holder

4.0 TYPE OF DECISION

4.1 Non-key

5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE

5.1 Regeneration and Liveability Portfolio Holder Meeting 15 February 2008

6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED

- 6.1 The Portfolio Holder is requested to approve in principle the involvement of Hartlepool Borough Council in this North Sea Interreg Project and authorise officers to negotiate specific terms of participation.

Report of: The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services

Subject NORTH SEA INTERREG PROJECT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report seeks approval to Hartlepool Borough Council's participation in a North Sea Interreg project based around the improved use and promotion of the North Sea coastal cycleway and footpath network.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Over the past three years the Council has been involved in a successful European Interreg Programme which has focussed on international collaboration on issues relating to the regeneration of coastal towns. This programme has now come to an end, having supported significant projects in Hartlepool; a formal evaluation report relating to the scheme will be presented to a future Portfolio meeting. A key focus of the Interreg programme is on sharing knowledge and developing best practice with European partners on how we tackle common problems. Funding is also available to carry out 'pilot projects' and in the last programme Hartlepool received around half a million pounds towards infrastructure schemes including the Headland Town Square and Seaton Carew improvements and also towards feasibility studies for the H2O centre, the gelateria, and a velvet crab holding facility which has successfully been taken forward by local fishermen.
- 2.2 A new Interreg funding programme is now in place (Interreg IV) covering the calendar years 2008 to 2013 and officers are currently exploring opportunities for involving Hartlepool in this, including potential themes based around the Tall Ships event. In the meantime, however, Hartlepool Borough Council has been invited to participate in a regionally led Interreg project. This scheme seeks to build on two large projects from the previous Interreg programme based around the North Sea footpath and cycleway networks.
- 2.3 The aim of the project is to improve and encourage greater use of the 6,000 km+ network of cycle and walking coastal pathways throughout the year rather than only a few weeks in the summer. Key objectives of the project include improving health, reducing obesity, increasing tourism and providing better resources for the local population.

- 2.4 The project which will also include the development of a dedicated website will have promotional benefits for the town, particularly with the Tall Ships event in mind. The scheme will also tie in with the Council's sustainability objectives in terms of promoting the establishment and improvement of the town's strategic footpath/ cycle network (although it is unlikely that the project will fund any substantial infrastructure work).
- 2.5 The network includes all the coastal Local Authorities in Norway, Sweden and Denmark, some in Germany and The Netherlands. In the United Kingdom participants are likely to include East Lothian, Fife, Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen and Moray Forth Partnership, Northumberland, Durham, One North East, Redcar and Cleveland, North Yorkshire Moors National Park, East Riding and Norfolk County Council. In the North East, Northumberland, Durham and One North East have already confirmed membership.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost of the whole project will be around 8 Million Euro. The cost per participant will range between 12,500 Euro (£9,500) in cash and 12,500 Euro (£9,500) in kind up to 18,500 Euro (£13,800) in cash and 18,500 Euro (£13,800) in kind per year over the 3 year period. This will be matched 50 / 50 with European Interreg funding, ie potentially £19,000 - £27,600 per annum over 3 years. Sources for the Council's cash contribution are still to be determined but it is envisaged that currently budgeted resources could be used to provide the match funding.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Portfolio Holder is requested to approve in principle the involvement of Hartlepool Borough Council in this North Sea Interreg Project and authorise officers to negotiate specific terms of participation, including financial implications, and report back to the Portfolio Holder.

REGENERATION & LIVEABILITY PORTFOLIO
Report To Portfolio Holder
15th February 2008



Report of: Director of Regeneration & Planning Services

Subject: Revision of the Housing Relocation Assistance Policy

SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To review housing relocation assistance that is available to residents within housing regeneration areas in Hartlepool, specifically that relating to owner occupiers.

2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report describes the nature and purpose of the housing relocation assistance policy and proposes amendments to it which can accommodate broader housing market changes that have emerged since it was originally established. The overall proposal is to increase this payment to reflect increased property prices.

3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

This decision falls within the Portfolio Holders remit.

4.0 TYPE OF DECISION

Non - key.

5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Portfolio holder at his meeting on 15 February 2008.

6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED

That the Housing Relocation Assistance Policy be revised in accordance with the details outlined in the report.

Report of: Director of Regeneration & Planning Services

Subject: Revision of The Housing Relocation Assistance Policy

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To review housing relocation assistance that is available to residents within housing regeneration areas in Hartlepool, specifically that relating to owner occupiers.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2003 the Council was successful in securing funding from English Partnerships and the North East Housing Board to support a programme of housing market renewal in Dyke House/Jackson ('north central Hartlepool') to tackle housing market imbalances in this part of the town.
- 2.2 Similar housing regeneration activity was also being progressed in the New Deal for Communities (NDC) area of west central Hartlepool at the same time.
- 2.3 Housing Relocation Assistance is a discretionary payment paid to owner occupiers whose home is within an area subject to housing clearance and redevelopment proposals, and is in addition to the market value of the property and statutory home loss payment that is required (market value is the valuation put on the property by a qualified surveyor and reflects what the property would be worth in an area which is not subject to external influences which affect housing regeneration). The intention is that it can enable such homeowners to move to a similar alternative property within the Borough.
- 2.4 A financial assistance package based on these principles was established in 2003/04 and reflected general house prices and costs existing at that time. A relocation assistance payment of up to £7,400 would be payable in addition to other statutory payments to owner occupiers moving to another owner occupied home in the Borough; Cabinet approved this on the 26th July 2004 as part of the Council's Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy and Policy 2004/06. The payment is repayable on a pro-rata basis if the homeowner moves again within five years.

- 2.5 Since the policy was adopted in 2004 the housing market in Hartlepool has changed significantly, with substantial price increases across all sectors of the market (in line with market changes regionally and nationally). During the assembly of the first housing market renewal sites in the town a smaller proportion of owner-occupiers opted to remain in owner-occupation than was anticipated. Residents have been surveyed and the growing gap in affordability was given as one reason for this.
- 2.6 Under current circumstances, when a 'like for like' move option is considered, a gap exists which is often significantly greater than the £7,400 Housing Relocation Assistance currently available (see table below showing average sale figures for property in similar streets to those being included in HMR schemes).

Street	Number of sales in last 2 years	Average price
Mapleton Road	5	£61,500
Parton Street	8	£65,500
Wharton Terrace	15	£64,325
St Oswalds Street	11	£53,909
Suggitt Street	11	£61,005
Topcliffe Street	6	£59,416
Stephen Street	27	£52,814

(Source ourproperty.com / Land Registry)

- 2.7 The average value of properties in possible future housing renewal areas broadly lies between £40,000 and £50,000. When added to the 10% statutory home loss payment, this presents a potential gap of up to £15,000 in relocation costs, ie for a homeowner to move to another property on a 'like for like' basis, covering costs incurred with moving and some updating costs, up to £15,000 would now be needed.
- 2.8 In order to help bridge this gap it is proposed that the relocation assistance payment is increased to a maximum of £15,000 from April 2008. This would be payable on a 50% grant basis of up to £7,500 repayable on a pro rata basis if the property is sold in the first 5 years (as it is currently), and an additional 50% loan of up to £7,500 which would be repaid to the Council when the property is sold or the owner-occupier 'staircases' up. (ie where the owner-occupier chooses to repay the loan element of the relocation assistance thereby discharging the charge on the property) This approach would be in keeping with possible changes being considered for the private housing sector grants and loans system for housing improvement from April 2008 (ie a system based on a 50:50 grant/loan arrangement).
- 2.9 Any repaid loan would be ringfenced and paid into the Housing Capital Fund for recycling.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no immediate direct financial implications to the Council; the funding for the housing market renewal programme comes from capital programmes funded by Central Government via the Regional Housing Board and Tees Valley Living, the sub-regional housing market restructuring partnership. It will however put an additional pressure on this 'external' capital funding, although some of this will eventually be re-cycled as loans are repaid in future years when property is either sold or owners staircase up to full ownership.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That the Housing Relocation Assistance Policy be revised in accordance with the details outlined in the report.

REGENERATION & LIVEABILITY PORTFOLIO
Report To Portfolio Holder
15th February 2008



Report of: Head of Community Strategy

Subject: NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND (NRF) 2007/8

SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update the Portfolio Holder on the amendments made to the Health & Care, Community Safety and Jobs & Economy NRF theme programmes. The Portfolio Holder is also requested to give delegated authority to the Head of Community Strategy to approve new activities in the current year up to the value of £20,000 to ensure the 2007/8 NRF allocation is fully utilised.

2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report sets out the modifications made by Theme Partnerships to the Health & Care, Community Safety and Jobs & Economy theme programmes to ensure that a full spend is achieved by the 31st March 2008. The report also sets out a request for delegated authority so that the Head of Community Strategy can approve new activities in the current year up to the value of £20,000 to ensure the 2007/8 allocation is fully utilised.

3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

Neighbourhood Renewal and the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund are within the remit of the Regeneration & Liveability Portfolio.

4.0 TYPE OF DECISION

Non-Key.

5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Hartlepool Partnership – 1st February 2008.
Regeneration & Liveability Portfolio – 15th February 2008.

6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED

To note the amendments made to the Health & Care, Community Safety and Jobs & Economy theme programmes and to give delegated authority to the Head of Community Strategy to approve new activities in the current year up to the value of £20,000.

Report of: Head of Community Strategy

Subject NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND (NRF) 2007/8

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Portfolio Holder on the amendments made to the Health & Care, Community Safety and Jobs & Economy theme programmes. The Portfolio Holder is also requested to give delegated authority to the Head of Community Strategy to approve new activities in the current year up to the value of £20,000 to ensure the 2007/8 allocation is fully utilised.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Cabinet agreed the final 2007/8 NRF programme on the 25th June 2007 within the Local Area Agreement (LAA) Outturn 2006/7 report. The NRF grant was included within that report as from April 2007 the NRF grant has been pooled within the LAA Grant. The Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) in October 2007 announced that NRF would not continue beyond March 2008 and Government Office has confirmed that the NRF grant must be spent in full by 31st March 2008 with no flexibility to carry forward unspent funding into 2008/9. In January the Portfolio Holder agreed for Theme Partnerships to have delegated authority to agree modifications within their 2007/8 NRF programmes in order for them to be able to respond quickly and utilise the funding effectively. It was noted that the Portfolio Holder would be informed of any modifications that were made at future meetings.

3. NRF 2007-08 YEAR END

- 3.1 As the end of the NRF programme approaches and there is no flexibility to carry forward funding into the next financial year there may be a need to agree new activities to utilise any emerging 2007/8 underspend. To enable this to be undertaken quickly it is proposed that the Portfolio Holder delegate authority to the Head of Community Strategy to approve new activities which will be completed by 31st March 2008 up to the value of £20,000. The Portfolio Holder will be informed of any new activities that are approved at future meetings.

4. AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING THEM E PROGRAMMES

4.1 A number of projects within the Health & Care theme have identified that they will underspend in 2007/8. The Health & Care Strategy Group have agreed the following variations to projects:

- MIND – Mental Health awareness training for GPs to enable patients with mental illness to better engage with their GPs.
- Health Trainers – support towards the Information Now website to provide accessible information on local services.
- Owton Rossmere Health Development Worker – support towards the Solid Rock Youth Project outreach work, Manor Residents Association elderly luncheon club, Manor West youth activities, Weight Management Service, Owton Dance Club, Sure Start South, Mental Health Matters healthy eating and cooking skills and ORCEL Health Awareness Day.

4.2 A £7,000 underspend remains in the Health & Care theme and the Health & Care Strategy Group will be discussing uses for this funding at their next meeting.

4.3 An underspend of £12,000 has been identified within the Community Safety Theme. The Safer Hartlepool Partnership have agreed to utilise the underspend on the following activities to respond to criminal damage issues:

- Improvements to security at Speeding Drive and Nicholson's field allotments;
- Research into criminal damage;
- Police/PCSO presence at criminal damage hot-spots;
- Increase Mill House skate park lighting from 2 to 5 nights per week until the end of March 2008.

4.4 The Portfolio Holder agreed 2 new projects in January to utilise part of the £20,000 underspend in the Jobs & Economy theme. The Economic Forum agreed at their meeting in January to allocate the identified underspend of £9,000 to the Hartlepool Financial Inclusion Partnership. This will be used to commission and produce a comprehensive research document to inform the strategic development of the Hartlepool Financial Inclusion Partnership.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The report refers to funding which has already been allocated and sets out a proposal to ensure that the full allocation is utilised before the grant fund ends on 31st March 2008.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The Portfolio Holder is requested to note the amendments made to the Health & Care, Community Safety and Jobs & Economy theme programmes and give delegated authority to the Head of Community Strategy to approve new activities in the current year up to the value of £20,000.

REGENERATION & LIVEABILITY PORTFOLIO
Report To Portfolio Holder
15 February 2008



Report of: Director of Regeneration and Planning Services

Subject: REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES
DEPARTMENTAL PLAN 2007/08 – QUARTER 3
MONITORING REPORT

SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Portfolio Holder of the progress made against Regeneration and Planning Services Departmental Plan 2007/08 in the third quarter of the year.

2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report shows details of progress against actions contained in the Departmental Plan and the third quarter outturn of key performance indicators. Several key departmental achievements so far during the year are also highlighted.

3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

The Portfolio Holder has responsibility for performance management issues in relation to the Regeneration and Planning Services Departmental Plan.

4.0 TYPE OF DECISION

Non key.

5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Portfolio Holder only.

6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Progress against actions and indicators be noted.

Report of: Director of Regeneration and Planning Services

Subject: REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES
DEPARTMENTAL PLAN 2007/08 – QUARTER 3
MONITORING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made against the key actions identified in the Regeneration and Planning Departmental Plan 2007/08 and the progress of key performance indicators for the period up to 31 December 2007.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Liveability has responsibility for the Regeneration and Planning Services Departmental Plan which was agreed in May 2007.
- 2.2 The Regeneration and Planning Departmental Plan 2007/08 sets out the key tasks and issues along with an Action Plan to show what is to be achieved by the department in the coming year.
- 2.3 The Council's electronic performance management database is used for collecting and analysing performance in relation to both the Corporate Plan and the five Departmental Plans.
- 2.4 Where appropriate more detailed service plans are also produced detailing how each individual section contributes to the key tasks and priorities contained within the Regeneration and Planning Departmental Plan and ultimately those of the Corporate Plan. These plans are managed within the department.

3. THRD QUARTER PERFORMANCE

- 3.1 This section looks in detail at how Regeneration and Planning Services has performed in relation to the key actions and performance indicators that were included within the Departmental Plan for 2007/08.
- 3.2 On a quarterly basis, officers from across the department are asked, via the Performance Management database, to provide an update on

progress against every action contained in the performance plan and where appropriate, every performance indicator.

- 3.3 Officers are asked to provide a short commentary explaining progress made to date and asked to 'traffic light' each section based on whether or not the action will be, or has been, completed by the target date set out in the plans. The traffic light system is:-

RED	Action / PI not expected to meet target
AMBER	Action / PI expected to meet target
GREEN	Action / PI target achieved

- 3.4 Within Regeneration and Planning Services Departmental Plan, there are a total of 169 actions and 52 performance indicators assigned to this portfolio. Table 1 below summarises the progress made at 31 December 2007 towards achieving these actions and performance indicators:-

Table 1 – Regeneration and Planning progress summary

	Departmental Plan	
	Actions	PIs
Green	69 (40.8%)	6 (11.5%)
Amber	78 (46.2%)	22 (42.3%)
Red	18 (10.6%)	6 (11.5%)
Annual	4 (2.4%)	18 (34.6%)
Total	169	52

- 3.5 A total of 69 actions have been achieved and a further 78 are expected to be completed by the milestone date. However 18 of the actions are described as not being on target, a number of which were highlighted to the portfolio holder in the Quarter 2 performance report. The details of the actions not yet brought to Portfolio Holder's attention are shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Actions not completed on target/not on target

Ref	Action	Milestone	Comment
CST051	Establish an action framework for Hartlepool Borough Council to address issues to tackle climate change	Dec 07	Other work pressures, most notably in relation to the preparation of the new LAA and the Community Strategy Review have led to this action not being achieved by the milestone date. Approval of the 2008/09 budget priority identified for sustainable development will increase the resources available to tackle the climate change issue.

Ref	Action	Milestone	Comment
CST015	Review compliance of Theme Partnerships to Partnership Governance Standard	Dec 07	This action has been rescheduled to fit with the Internal Audit review of Hartlepool Partnership scheduled to take place January / February 2008.
PED132	Complete three conservation area visual assessments	Mar 08	Work has been delayed due to the council's photographer being ill and therefore it is anticipated that only two of the three visual inspections will be completed by the March deadline.
PED041	Completion of Rivergreen first phase at Queens Meadow	Dec 07	Construction is well advanced but slight delays due to long lead in times for utility diversions and provision have occurred. It is expected that full completion will occur in April 2008.
REG073	Prepare draft Planning Obligations SPD for consultation	Oct 07	The delay in the work on PPG17 Open Space audit which was reported to Portfolio Holder in Q2 has had a knock on effect to the timescales for these studies.
REG212	Prepare Open Space Strategy	Dec 07	Both are expected to now commence in Q1 of 2008/9.
REG211	Prepare Employment Land Review	Mar 08	The extent of work involved in preliminary assessments is greater than originally anticipated. This work is now nearing completion however and ph2 market and demand analysis will shortly be commissioned with a final report and recommendations to follow in 2008/9.
REG034	Commence new NAP for Throston Area	Mar 08	The endorsement of the revised Community Strategy by the LSP (now expected in June 2008) is required before this new NAP commences.
SSD241	Manage the delivery of the records back-scanning contract for Planning, Building Control and Youth Offending Services	Jan 08	This is largely complete however one small further batch of scanning to convert paper record into electronic documents is still required in order to complete the project. This is expected to occur by March 2008.

3.6 From Table 1 it can be seen that most of the PI targets set are currently expected to be achieved, however six indicators are assessed to be a 'red risk' of which two have not previously been brought to the Portfolio Holder's attention. The details are shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – Performance Indicators not completed on target/not on target

Ref	Action	Target	Outturn	Comment
FED DPI6	Percentage of full Building Control plans determined within 8 weeks	100%	95%	The 100% target cannot now be achieved but it should be noted that current performance is significantly improved from that of previous years. This has been achieved from new procedures being introduced and hard work by the team despite some staffing issues.
SSD DPI1	Average number of days lost to sickness absence within the department	7.50	8.93	Despite remaining the best performing Council department in terms of sickness absence rates, several unavoidable long term cases in particular have led to the projected outturn figure being in excess of the original target. Departmental sickness management is carried out in line with corporate procedures and this figure is regularly reported to Performance Portfolio Holder as part of the Council's overall sickness reporting process.

3.7 Portfolio Holder's attention is drawn to progress and achievements of the department in the third quarter of the year which include:

- View point 23 results show that 54% of residents now feel 'very' or 'fairly' safe out in their neighbourhood after dark which exceeds the current LAA target of 32%.
- Agreement reached for the 179 homes on the North Central Hartlepool HMR site to be constructed to Eco-Homes standard 'Very Good'.
- Hartlepool is the only area in Tees Valley that has seen growth in new VAT registrations of businesses in 2007/08 with 170 recorded against a target of 140. Other neighbouring authorities have seen significant reductions.
- Third Local Development Framework annual report submitted to Government Office on 21 December 2007.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 That the progress against key actions and third quarter outturn of performance indicators is noted.