



Chief Executive's Department
Civic Centre
HARTLEPOOL

11th February, 2008

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond)

Councillors Akers-Belcher, Allison, Atkinson, Barker, Brash, Clouth, R W Cook, S Cook, Coward, Cranney, Fenwick, Fleet, Fleming, Flintoff, Gibbon, Griffin, Hall, Hargreaves, Henery, Hill, Jackson, James, Johnson, Kaiser, Laffey, Lauderdale, A E Lilley, G Lilley, London, A Marshall, J Marshall, Dr. Morris, Payne, Plant, Preece, Richardson, Rogan, Shaw, Simmons, Sutheran, Tumilty, Turner, Wallace, Wistow, Worthy, Wright, and Young.

Madam or Sir,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the COUNCIL to be held on THURSDAY, 21st February, 2008 at 7.00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool to consider the subjects set out in the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

P Walker
Chief Executive

Enc

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

COUNCIL AGENDA



21st February 2008

at 7.00 pm

in the Council Chamber

1. To receive apologies from absent members.
2. To receive any declarations of interest from members.
3. To deal with any business required by statute to be done before any other business.
4. To receive questions from and provide answers to the public in relation to matters of which notice has been given under Rule 10.
5. To approve the minutes of the last meeting of the Council held on 14th February 2008, as a correct record (copy attached).
6. Questions from Members of the Council on the minutes of the last meeting of the Council.
7. To answer questions of members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 11;
 - (a) Questions to members of the Executive about recent decisions of the Executive (without notice)
 - (b) Questions to members of the Executive and Chairs of Committees and Forums, for which notice has been given.
 - (c) Questions to the appropriate members on Police and Fire Authority issues, for which notice has been given.
8. To deal with any business required by statute to be done.
9. To receive any announcements from the Chair, the Mayor, members of the Cabinet or the head of the paid service.

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

10. To dispose of business (if any) remaining from the last meeting and to receive the report of any scrutiny forum or other committee to which such business was referred for consideration.
11. To receive reports from the Council's committees and working groups other than any overview and scrutiny committee and to receive questions and answers on any of those reports;
12. To consider any other business specified in the summons to the meeting, including consideration of reports of the overview and scrutiny committees for debate and to receive questions and answers on any of those items;
13. To consider reports from the Executive:-
 - (a) Proposals in relation to the Council's budget and policy framework
 - (i) Safer Hartlepool Partnership's crime, disorder and substance misuse Strategy 2008-2011 (copy attached)
 - (ii) If any: Executive report on issues referred by Council on 14th February 2008
 - (b) Proposals for departures from the budget and policy framework
14. To consider any motions in the order in which notice has been received.
15. To receive the Chief Executive's report and to pass such resolutions thereon as may be deemed necessary.

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

14 February 2008

The meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

PRESENT:-

The Chairman (Councillor C Richardson) presiding:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond

COUNCILLORS:

Akers-Belcher	Allison	Atkinson
Barker	Brash	R W Cook
Cranney	Fleet	Flintoff
Gibbon	Griffin	Hall
Henery	Hill	James
Johnson	MP Laffey	Lauderdale
A Lilley	G Lilley	London
A Marshall	Payne	Preece
Richardson	Rogan	Shaw
Simmons	Sutheran	Tumilty
Turner	Wallace	Wistow
Worthy	Wright	Young

Officers: Paul Walker, Chief Executive
Dave Stubbs, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration and Planning
John Collings, Assistant Director of Children's Services (Performance and Achievement)
John Mennear, Assistant Director of Adult and Community Services
Andrew Atkin, Assistant Chief Executive
Mike Ward, Chief Financial Officer
Chris Little, Assistant Chief Financial Officer
Peter Devlin, Legal Services Manager
Charlotte Burnham, Scrutiny Manager
David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

102. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENT MEMBERS

Councillors Clouth, S Cook, Fenwick, Hargreaves, Jackson, Kaiser, J Marshall, and Dr. Morris

103. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

Councillors Hall and Laffey declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute no. 124 "Report from the Executive" and subsequently left the meeting during its consideration.

Councillor Wallace declared a personal interest as Chair of Hartlepool PCT.

104. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE BEFORE ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

105. PUBLIC QUESTION

Question from Mr Norman Robertson to Councillor M James, Chair of Scrutiny Coordinating Committee–

‘When will the HBC Scrutiny Forum Committee make its final report on the ‘Ghost Ships’?’

Councillor James stated that the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee published its findings by way of an interim report back in December 2003. The focus of the scrutiny investigation was to look at the impact of the dismantling activity on Hartlepool and its inhabitants. Whilst the Committee never intended to look at the planning application in any shape or form (as that is the role of the Planning Committee), events and circumstances have since progressed and if not changed in that :-

- there is now a valid planning permission allowing Able UK to dismantle the ships, subject to several conditions and a legal agreement; and
- the decision of the Secretary of State following the recent Public Enquiry is awaited with anticipation by April 2008.

Taking into account all of these activities together with the earlier work of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, there is clearly no real value or meaningful outcomes that the Authority's scrutiny process can and would add since events have now been overtaken. On the basis and in answer to the question, no Final Report is to be produced.

Mr Robertson's supplementary questions were ruled out of order by the Chair, as they did not relate to the original question.

106. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

In relation to the minutes of 13 December 2007, the following amendment was proposed and agreed;

Minute 85 (iv) "It was considered that there needed to be protocols established as recommended Good Practice by the Centre for Public ~~Excellence~~ Scrutiny."

The Minutes of Proceedings of the Council held on the 13 December 2007 and 14 January 2008, having been laid before the Council.

RESOLVED– That, subject to the above amendment to the minutes of 13 December 2007, the minutes be confirmed.

The minutes were thereupon signed by the Chairman.

107. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ON THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Barker asked if the Chair of the Council considered it appropriate to call an additional 'closed' meeting of the Council to consider in full detail, with full disclosure from the Police, the break in at the Civic Centre that was the subject of the Extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 14 January 2008. Councillor Barker was concerned that there seemed to be an amount of information relating to the break-in that was available to the public but was not being disclosed to this Council. The Chair reminded councillors that the Council could not revisit an issue it had discussed within six months of the original consideration as set out in Council Procedure Rule 16. The Chair indicated that he understood Councillor Barker's and other Members concern to have the matter resolved and/or reported back to Council at the earliest possible opportunity but could not involve the Council in an on-going Police investigation. In relation to the concerns expressed at the meeting on the security at the Civic Centre it was acknowledged that this should be reviewed and it was suggested that the General Purposes Committee could undertake this.

108. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

- (a) Questions to Members of the Executive about recent decisions of the Executive

None.

- (b) Questions to Members of the Executive and Chairs of Committees and Forums, for which Notice has been given

Question from Councillor Turner to Councillor R W Cook, Chair of the Planning Committee–

"Several months ago the Planning Committee made some deliberations concerning the pre-settlement height at Seaton Meadows Landfill site, noting that the height at present is way above a reasonable height at which settlement could eventually naturally move to the final agreed height in the planning condition. Could he please inform the Council if any

progress has been made to reduce the height of this site and what further action could be taken to reduce the height, noting that many months have passed since the Committee made its deliberations on this issue?’

Councillor R Cook indicated that he fully appreciated that the over-tipping of waste that has occurred at Seaton Meadows has been of great concern to Members, and the public for some time. The position is that planning officers have been working with the Company Alab Environmental and the Environment Agency with a view to finalising a management plan submitted by the company for the redistribution of over-tipped waste on the site. Discussions are continuing regarding the amount of waste that needs to be moved together with the timescale for this. A schedule for pest, litter, and odour control during operations is under discussion.

We continued to seek the reduction of the landform at Seaton Meadows by the company on an agreed voluntary basis, but failing this may well ultimately need to take formal enforcement proceedings.

An update report will be presented to the next Planning Committee on a 'not for publication' basis given that it may have a bearing on future formal action by the Council. As such, I hope members will appreciate that it would be inappropriate to go into further detail on precise options and timescales at this point. As Chairman of the Planning Committee, I am however keen to see a clear action plan and timescale to address these problems.”

In a supplementary question, Councillor Turner asked

‘Do you or any officer in the Planning Department know of another site that takes hazardous waste similar to Seaton Meadows that has an agreed settlement height as high?’

Councillor R Cook indicated that he could not answer that question.

- (c) Questions to the appropriate Members on Police and Fire Authority issues, for which notice has been given.

None.

109. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

None.

110. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced that he would forward the Council's condolences to Councillor Hargreaves following the recent death of her mother.

The Chair announced that he was holding a Charity event on 28 March 2008 at 7.30pm at Seaton Carew Social Club.

111. TO DISPOSE OF BUSINESS (IF ANY) REMAINING FROM THE LAST MEETING AND TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF ANY SCRUTINY FORUM OR OTHER COMMITTEE TO WHICH SUCH BUSINESS WAS REFERRED FOR CONSIDERATION.

None.

112. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Report of the Constitution Committee

Councillor James, Vice-Chair of the Constitution Committee, proposed the following two amendments to the Council's Constitution.

- (a) Alteration to the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure rules in relation to the period for call-in of an executive decision

At the meeting of the Constitution Committee on 25 January 2008, consideration was given to the changes to the Constitution that would be necessary to give effect to the extension of the call in period from 3 to 4 days. This change necessitates variation of rule 16(a)(ii) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules. It was also proposed within the report that an amendment to the procedure rules to stipulate that Saturdays be not to be used for the publication of decision records should also be recommended.

RESOLVED -

That Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16 "Category 1 - Call-in - where the principles of decision-making may not have been followed when taking the decision" (Part 4 Page 135) be amended as set out in appendix 1 to the report.

- (b) Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum – Restructure Proposal

At the meeting on 25th January 2008, the Constitution Committee considered a report from the Chair of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee that described changes approved, and intended to be effective from next Annual Council (subject to appropriate budget provision also being approved), in relation to the split of responsibilities of the Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum so as to provide for two separate scrutiny forums –

Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum, dealing with adult, culture and leisure matters, and
Health Scrutiny Forum dealing with health issues.

These changes would require amendment to a number of sections of the Constitution and these were detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

RESOLVED -

That the amendments set out in Appendix 2 to the report relating to the split of responsibilities of the Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum so as to provide for two separate scrutiny forums as proposed be approved.

113. TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS SPECIFIED IN THE SUMMONS OF THE MEETING

None.

114. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE

(a) Proposals in relation to the Council's budget and policy framework

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2008/09 to 2010/11

Councillor Payne, the Finance and Efficiency Portfolio Holder, presented the Executive's Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2008/09 to 2010/11. Councillor Payne outlined the proposals relating to the Outturn Strategy 2007/08; the Capital Budget 2008/09 and Prudential Indicators; the Treasury Management Strategy 2008/09; the Budget Requirement and Council Tax 2008/09; and the Budget Requirement and indicative Council Tax 2008/09 and 2009/10 to 2010/11.

A copy of the detailed Medium Term Financial Strategy 2008/09 to 2010/11 Report, which Cabinet considered at its meeting on 4th February, 2007, had been issued in a separate booklet with the agenda papers for the meeting. This report provided Members with the detailed supporting information to the budget proposals. Additional information relating to the proposed departmental allocation of the Area Based Grant and the Working Neighbourhoods Fund was also submitted.

The Finance and Efficiency Portfolio Holder commented that the final grant allocations unfortunately showed a small reduction from the initial figures, although the overall settlement remains a very good one for Hartlepool. It was disappointing that The Minister had not felt able to address the concerns expressed at the recent meeting, particularly in relation to floor damping.

The budget was commended to Council.

Motion put and agreed.

(b) Proposal for Departure from the Budget and Policy Framework

The Way Forward–Business Transformation Programme.

The Mayor requested that consideration of this matter be deferred to the proposed Council meeting on 28 February 2008 to allow two Members Seminars to be held on the subject.

115. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

(i) "In the interests of transparency and openness and to encourage public access and participation this Council resolves to introduce live on-line internet streaming of all Full Council meetings before the end of the 2008 Calendar year and to roll this program out to principle committees such as Cabinet, Planning, Licensing, as soon as practicable."

Signed:

S Allison

G Lilley

M Plant

M W Turner

J Marshall

In moving the motion, Councillor Allison referred to the growing number of local authorities that had already introduced the live internet streaming of Council meetings and the success they had in creating interest in their local community. Councillor Allison believed that the relatively modest costs associated with this new technology should be met by the Council as it would encourage a greater involvement in local democracy.

Motion moved and seconded.

Amendment moved and seconded–

"In the interests of transparency and openness and to encourage public access and participation this Council resolves to investigate and produce detailed costings for live on-line streaming of Council meetings and determine what scope there is, if any, in the budget and policy framework to facilitate the introduction of such a system."

In moving the proposed amendment, Councillor Brash indicated that proper consideration of the proposal needed to be undertaken in light of the actual costs associated with installing and maintaining such a system.

Members commented that it would have been helpful if this proposal had been raised during the budget consultation process as it could have been included in the detailed budget proposals put before Council at this meeting.

Amendment put and carried.

Substantive motion put and carried.

(ii) "At present Hartlepool Authority elect by thirds, with one third of members seeking re-election, it is not only out-dated, but also extremely costly to the Tax Payer.

We are the only Authority within the Cleveland area that does not hold elections once every four year cycle.

Recent Government changes came into force on 31st December 2007, which allows provision to enable local authorities to change their electoral cycles by resolution.

To ensure that the timing of elections is co-ordinated across the country, a full council stand-down could be achieved in the May elections of 2010 or 2014.

Accordingly that this council debates and recognises that major budgetary savings could be made by holding whole council elections once every four years".

Signed:
E Wright
C Barker
R Flintoff
R Atkinson
F London
M Plant
MP Laffey
GH Morris
G Lilley
A Lilley
S Gibbon
MW Turner
DR Young
J Marshall

Councillor Wright moved the motion and stated that she believed there was strong financial case for moving to all-out four yearly elections and she considered that this would be supported by the general public.

Motion moved and seconded.

Addendum moved and seconded—

"That the General Purposes Committee complete its good work in investigating this issue and report back to full Council!"

In moving the amendment Councillor Brash agreed that a debate on this issue was needed but should be undertaken with the full facts that would be brought to light through the General Purposes Committee's investigation.

Members voiced differing opinions on the issue during the debate. While there was support for the proposal that would bring Hartlepool in line with the majority of other North East Councils, some expressed the opinion that annual elections by thirds gave the people of Hartlepool an opportunity to comment via the ballot box on how they felt their town was being run each May. The Mayor commented that should such a proposal be put to the people of the town, it should be in conjunction with a proposal to reduce the number of elected Councillors in the town.

Addendum put and agreed.

Substantive motion put and agreed.

Councillor Allison requested that his vote against the motion be recorded in accordance with Council Procedure rule 17.5.

(iii) "This council supports the pay claim being pursued by the Police Federation and asks that the Home Secretary fully ratify the findings of independent arbitration regarding the pay award to Police Officers"

Signed:

G Lilley

S Gibbon

A Lilley

M Turner

R Flintoff

J Marshall

V Tumilty

S Allison

In moving the motion, Councillor G Lilley commented that he, like many others, had always been of the belief that the arbitration process was binding on both parties. Councillor G Lilley considered that the government's response to the Police's pay deal had damaged the relationship between the Police and the government and he was particularly disappointed in some of the published comments of the Home Secretary and the town's Member of Parliament.

Members supported the motion and considered that the Police should have received their pay deal in full in the same way that other public sector workers had. Members also commented that there had been a significant improvement in the policing in Hartlepool over recent years. Councillor Wallace, one of the Council's appointed representatives to the Police Authority, stated that the Police Authority fully supported the pay claim and had already budgeted for the award.

Motion put and unanimously agreed.

116. POST OFFICES IN HARTLEPOOL – NETWORK CHANGE PROGRAMME

The Chief Executive submitted to Council, as Appendix '1' to his report, a copy of a letter which the Mayor had received from Iain Wright MP, in response to a letter the Mayor sent to the MP following the Council's discussion of the Network Change Programme at its meeting on 25th October 2007. It was announced at the meeting that the Post Office had agreed to attend two public meetings in Hartlepool, the first being a meeting chaired by the Mayor at 2.00pm on Friday 29 February and the second, a meeting of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee to be held at 6.00pm on Thursday 6 March. Both meetings would be held in the Council Chamber.

The Mayor indicated that the comments from both meetings would be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 17 March when a final response to the consultation exercise would be agreed.

117. CHIEF SOLICITOR

The Chief Executive reported that due to the retirement of the Chief Solicitor at the end of March, the Vacancy Monitoring Panel had considered the post at its meeting on 16th January 2008 and confirmed the request to fill the post.

Council is requested, therefore, to approve the establishment of an Appointments Panel. In line with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, as set out in the Constitution, the Panel will consist of eight members, as follows:-

The Mayor
The Chairman of the Council
3 Labour Group nominations
1 Administrative Group nomination
1 Conservative Group nomination
1 Liberal Democrat Group nomination

In addition, as identified in the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, Council was requested to reflect the gender balance of the Council when nominating to the Panel. It was suggested; therefore, that Council nominate three female Councillors to the Panel.

Council is requested to approve the establishment of the Appointments Panel and nominate members accordingly.

RESOLVED—that Councillors Brash, James, Simmons, Dr Morris, Wright and G Lilley be appointed to the Appointments Panel for this post.

118. INTERIM APPOINTMENT OF MONITORING OFFICER AND RETURNING OFFICER

The Chief Executive stated that upon the retirement of the Chief Solicitor on

31 March 2008, it would be necessary for the Council to make an appointment of a Monitoring Officer – a statutory appointment that is required by s.5 Local Government and Housing Act 1989 – and a Returning Officer, both of which were the responsibilities of the Chief Solicitor. The current deputy Monitoring Officer is Mr. Peter Devlin who is the Legal Practice Manager and members may consider it appropriate to appoint Mr. Devlin as Monitoring Officer pending completion of an appointment to the post of Chief Solicitor. Members may also consider it appropriate to appoint Mr. Devlin as Returning Officer for the purpose of the Council elections that will be taking place on 1 May 2008 and any other elections occurring prior to appointment of a permanent Returning Officer.

RESOLVED that Mr Peter Devlin, Legal Practice Manager, be appointed Monitoring Officer and Returning Officer for the authority in the period following the retirement of the Chief Solicitor and the appointment of new Chief Solicitor.

119. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES – PERFORMANCE AND ACHIEVEMENT

The Chief Executive reported that as Members may be aware that there will be an Assistant Director vacancy in the Children's Services Department when John Collings leaves on 20th March 2008. The Vacancy Monitoring Panel considered the post at its meeting on 30th January 2008 and confirmed the request to fill the post.

Council is requested, therefore, to approve the establishment of an Appointments Panel. In line with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, as set out in the Constitution, the Panel will consist of eight members, as follows:-

The Mayor

The Chairman of the Council

3 Labour Group nominations

1 Administrative Group nomination

1 Conservative Group nomination

1 Liberal Democrat Group nomination

In addition, as identified in the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, Council was requested to reflect the gender balance of the Council when nominating to the Panel. It was suggested; therefore, that Council nominate three female Councillors to the Panel.

Council was requested to approve the establishment of the Appointments Panel and nominate members accordingly. Members debated the extension of the panel to include the additional appointment of the Children's Services Portfolio Holder as a member of the appointing panel.

Members took the opportunity to pay tribute to Mr Collings and wish him every success in his new post with Newcastle City Council.

RESOLVED–

1. that Councillors Griffin, Simmons, Shaw, Dr Morris, Wright and A Lilley be appointed to the Appointments Panel for this post.
2. That the Appointments Panel be extended to nine members and include the Children's services Portfolio Holder, Councillor Cath Hill.

120. ADDITIONAL ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 28 FEBRUARY 2008 AT 7.00PM

The Chief Executive reported that Council meeting on 21 February had been intended to finalise the Council Tax setting process for 2008/09. However, he had been informed that the Police Authority had rescheduled its meeting to set its budget and precept. An additional ordinary meeting of Council was therefore required to finalise the council tax setting process. Council was therefore requested to approve the holding of an additional meeting at 7.00pm on Thursday 28 February 2008. Members were reminded that the meeting on 21 February would still be held.

Members commented that both the Police and the Fire Brigade had rearranged their budget setting meetings from those previously indicated. Members requested that the Chair of the Council write to the two authorities indicating that this Council had yet again been inconvenienced by the changes they had made to their budget setting procedures. As both authorities had received a three year settlement, as had this Council, Members considered that there should be no need for these circumstances to be repeated in 2009.

RESOLVED – that an additional Ordinary meeting of the council be held on Thursday 28 February 2008 commencing at 7.00pm.

121. COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The Chief Executive reported that the public announcement of the results of the national CPA reassessment for 2007 had been made on 7 February 2008. The Council had again been rated as 4* (the highest possible rating). The other element to the rating is in respect of the rate of improvement of the Council. This has not been announced as the provisional rating given by the Audit Commission has been challenged.

Members welcomed the announcement and congratulated all those who had worked extremely hard in achieving the four star rating for the sixth year in succession.

122. CHANGES IN POLITICAL GROUPS

Since the last meeting of Council, the Chief Executive reported that he had been informed that Councillor Rogan has rejoined the Labour Group.

123. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Minute 124 Report from the Executive (Para 3—namely, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

124 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE

(b) Proposal for Departure from the Budget and Policy Framework

Trincomalee Trust—Revenue Funding

The Council considered a report on a proposal for departure from the Budget and Policy Framework from Cabinet.

The decision of the Council is set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

C RICHARDSON

CHAIRMAN

Report of: The Executive, to be presented by the Regeneration & Liveability Portfolio Holder

Subject: Safer Hartlepool Partnership's crime, disorder and substance misuse Strategy 2008-2011

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Council endorsement of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership's crime, disorder and substance misuse strategy 2008-2011.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 established a statutory duty for the Local Authority and Police to form a partnership and produce a 3 year strategy, based on a review of crime and disorder, which occurred in the previous 3 years. The Police Reform Act 2002 extended this duty to include the Primary Care Trust, Police Authority and Fire Authority. Collectively these 5 bodies are known as Responsible Authorities, for the purposes of the partnership provisions in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
- 2.2 Following a review of the partnership provisions in the 1998 Act, the Police and Justice Act 2006 amended the 1998 Act, so that new regulations could be introduced, which would extend the statutory duty placed collectively on the Responsible Authorities.
- 2.3 The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 came into force on 1st August 2007 and set out minimum standards on how the Safer Hartlepool Partnership (SHP) should function in formulating and implementing strategies to tackle crime, disorder and substance misuse in Hartlepool.
- 2.4 One requirement of the Regulations is that the SHP must produce an annual strategic assessment.

The purpose of the strategic assessment is to provide knowledge and understanding of community safety problems that will inform and enable the partners to:

13(a)(i)

- Understand the patterns, trends and shifts relating to crime and disorder and substance misuse;
- Set clear and robust priorities of their partnership;
- Develop activity that is driven by reliable intelligence and meets the needs of the local community;
- Deploy resources effectively and present value for money;
- Undertake annual reviews and plan activity based on a clear understanding of the issues and priorities.

2.5 Following consideration of the strategic assessment findings, the SHP must produce a Partnership Plan by 1st April 2008. The Plan must:

- Include a strategy for tackling crime and disorder (including anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment) and for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area over the subsequent 3 years;
- Be revised at least annually;
- Contain the priorities identified through the strategic assessment;
- Contain information about the role of each partner in supporting the delivery of the priorities and how this will be resourced;
- Contain information about the way the partnership will engage with the community.

The Partnership plan therefore comprises a 3 year strategy (to tackle crime, disorder and substance misuse) and annual action plans for 2008/09.

2.6 A summary of the Partnership Plan must be published by 1st April 2008.

3. **DECISION MAKING ROUTE FOR THE CRIME, DISORDER AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE STRATEGY 2008-2011**

3.1 This strategy is part of the Budget & Policy framework for the Authority. The process has been fulfilled as follows:

1. An initial draft of the strategy was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 7th January 2008 and approved for consultation.
2. The draft strategy was considered by the Regeneration & Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 17th January 2008. The views and comments from the Scrutiny Forum were incorporated into an updated draft strategy.
3. The final draft strategy was considered by Cabinet on 4th February 2008 and recommended for endorsement by Council.

- 3.2 The Safer Hartlepool Partnership Executive Group and the Partnership's Performance and Planning Group have overseen the development of the draft strategy.

4. DEVELOPMENT OF THE SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP'S CRIME, DISORDER AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE STRATEGY 2008-2011 AND ANNUAL ACTION PLANS FOR 2008/09

- 4.1 The Safer Hartlepool Partnership considered its first strategic assessment in November 2007. Four strategic objectives have been agreed and 6 annual priorities established for 2008/09:

Strategic Objective 2008-2011	Annual Priority 2008/09
1. Reduce crime	1. Violent crime, including domestic abuse 2. Acquisitive crime
2. Reduce harm caused by illegal drugs and alcohol	3. Alcohol treatment 4. Drug dealing and supply
3. Improve neighbourhood safety and increase public confidence, leading to reduced fear of crime and anti-social behaviour	5. Anti-social behaviour and criminal damage, including deliberate fire setting
4. Reduce offending and re-offending	6. Preventing and reducing offending, re-offending and the risk of offending

- 4.2 In addition, the Safer Hartlepool Partnership has agreed that it must continue to provide drug treatment – which has a planning process prescribed by Government for both adults and young people; and take a longer term approach to improving reassurance of residents and increasing public confidence.
- 4.3 The Safer Hartlepool Partnership Executive Group considered the final draft strategy at its meeting on 30th January 2008.

- 4.4 The Safer Hartlepool Partnership Executive Group will consider a final version of the Strategy, together with annual action plans for 2008/09, at it's meeting on 12th March 2008.
- 4.5 A summary of the Partnership Plan (i.e. Strategy and action plans) will be published by 1st April 2008.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Council endorses the Safer Hartlepool's Partnership's Crime, Disorder and Substance misuse plan 2008-2011, attached at Appendix 1

Contact officer: Alison Mawson
Head of Community Safety & Prevention

Background Papers

Reports to Safer Hartlepool Partnership Executive Group on 19th September, 12th November and 12th December 2007.

SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP

Draft crime, disorder and substance misuse strategy 2008-2011

Foreword

I am proud to be introducing the Safer Hartlepool Partnerships fourth strategy which shows how working together can make a real difference.

Almost a decade ago, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, put partnership working on a statutory footing for the first time. Since that time, we have conducted 3 audits and produced 3 strategies covering 1999-2002, 2002-2005 and 2005-2008. Crime has reduced significantly in Hartlepool since 1999, but there are still communities where there are higher levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. There is more to do to reduce re-offending, tackle the misuse of drugs and alcohol and improve the life chances of young people. We must also work harder to improve people's quality of life and limit the harm caused to communities.

In the Autumn of 2007, the Safer Hartlepool Partnership conducted its first strategic assessment, which analyses the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and substance misuse during the previous 12 months, so that the Partnership can set clear priorities and develop actions to meet the needs of the local community.

This strategy sets out the Partnership's longer term plans for the next 3 years. Each year a strategic assessment will review these plans and re-prioritise our annual activity.

During the period of the strategy for 2005-2008 we have seen the introduction of neighbourhood policing in the town. This has brought more frontline Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) into neighbourhoods, leading to an improved visual patrolling presence on our streets. Residents told us this is what they wanted, and now they report feeling safer.

In the coming years, we will work hard to tackle other things which residents say they want, such as reduced drug dealing, less rowdy behaviour and more activities for young people, to keep them out of trouble. I would like to encourage everybody who is interested in making Hartlepool a safer and healthier place, to join with us and play your part in combating crime and disorder.

Mayor Stuart Drummond
Chair of Safer Hartlepool Partnership

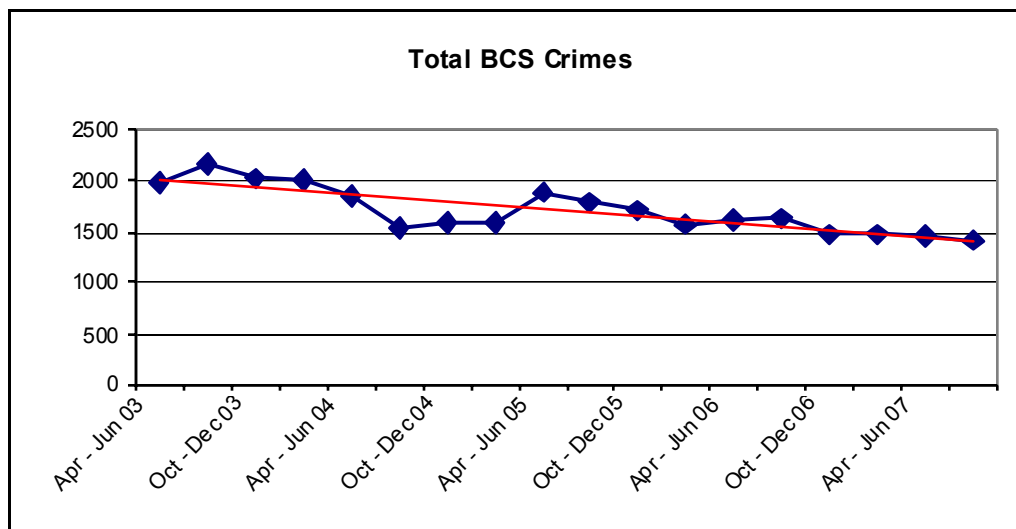
REVIEW OF PAST PERFORMANCE

Hartlepool is a safer place than it was a few years ago, and residents agree.

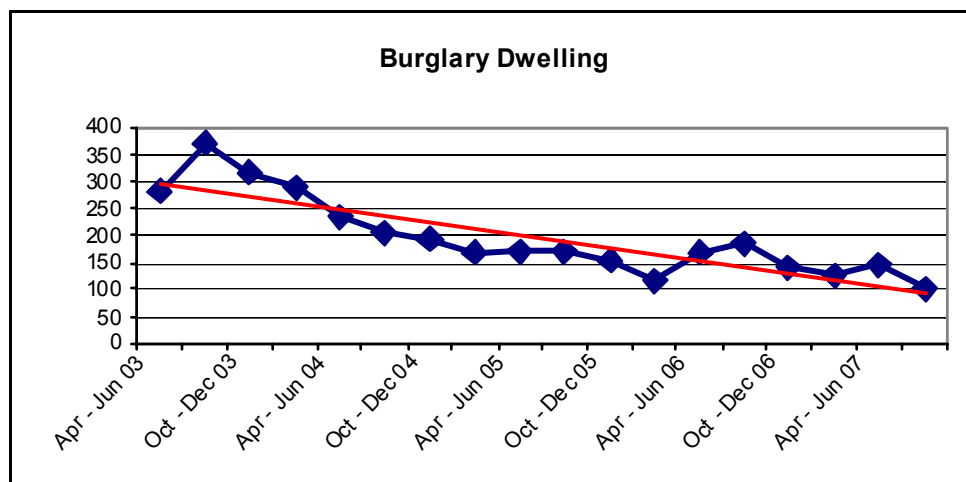
At the end of 2007, the Council's citizen panel survey revealed that 54% of residents feel safe walking alone at night, compared to 37% in 2003/04. That's an additional 15,300 residents, or one-sixth of the population, feeling safe out walking at night.

Other surveys, conducted using different methodology, concur with this result. Residents also feel less worried about having their home broken into and more satisfied with the quality of service provided by the Police.

Recorded crime has reduced by 26% since 2003/04 (as measured by 10 BCS comparator crimes), which equates to 2281 less victims in 2006/07 than 2003/04.



Domestic burglary has been a priority for the Partnership in all 3 previous strategies. In 1997, there were 1545 recorded burglaries, in 2006/07 there were 634, a reduction of nearly 60%.



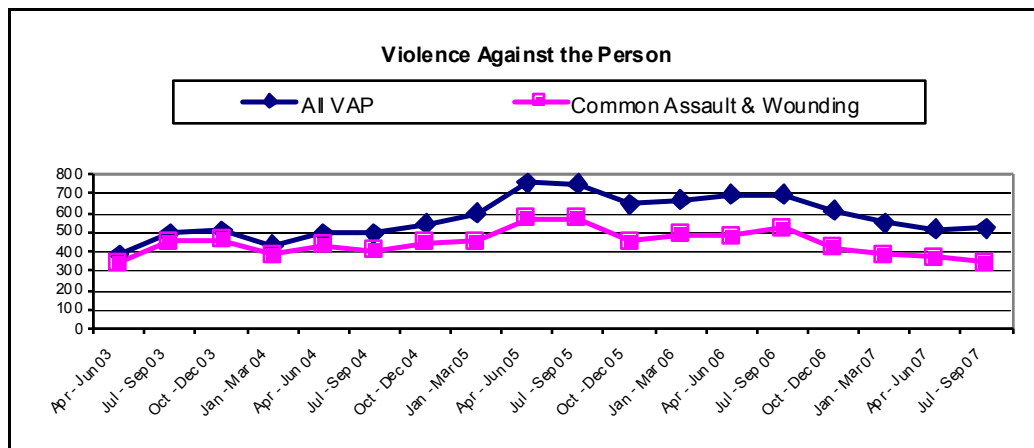
During this time the Partnership has installed free security improvements for hundreds of burglary victims, erected alleygates to virtually every back alley in the town centre area, improved street lighting at numerous locations, worked with residents groups to provide security improvements to homes in their areas and assisted with re-designing estate layouts to reduce burglary risks. In 2007//08 the Partnership predicts that domestic burglary will be at an all time low, possibly recording in the region of 500 burglaries during this 12 month period. A few years ago, this level of burglary in Hartlepool was inconceivable.

Similarly vehicle crime has reduced from 2501 in 1997 to 895 in 2006/07, a reduction of nearly 65%.

During this time, the security of most of the town centre car parks has been improved, vehicle owners have continually been warned by variety of campaign methods to remove valuables from their car to reduce the risk of it being broken into and many 'end of life', abandoned or untaxed vehicles have been removed from the streets and destroyed.

But violence against the person offences have risen from 448 in 1997 to 2652 in 2006/07.

It should be remembered that changes to the National Crime Recording Standards were introduced in 2002 (although the effect was not fully evident in Hartlepool until 2004/05); new offences have been introduced and offences not previously recorded as crime have been classified as crimes, which will account for at least some of this rise.



Town centre violence has been a Partnership priority since 2005, but when compared to our most similar family group, Hartlepool is still above the group average, which indicates poor performance compared to others in the group.

The Partnership has carried out improvements to Church Street, such as removal of brick planters, increased waste bins, improved street lighting and provided financial assistance to install CCTV inside pubs, clubs and taxis. High profile campaigns on sensible drinking and a hard-hitting 'think before you drink' campaign, have also linked to domestic violence.

Just under 25% of violent crime is domestic related, with the highest number of offences occurring in Stranton, Dyke House and Owton Wards.

Much of the violent crime (around 40%) has been flagged by Police Officers as 'committed under the influence'.

Data from the Public Health Observatory shows the profile of alcohol related harm in Hartlepool to be significantly worse than the England average for hospital admissions, binge drinking and alcohol related crime.

Hartlepool currently has no specialist alcohol treatment service, but an alcohol needs assessment is underway and an alcohol harm reduction strategy was developed by the Partnership in 2006.

Analysis continues to indicate that individuals arrested for drug offences are users and that there is a strong correlation between drug use and crime.

Since 1997 drug treatment services in Hartlepool have improved enormously. We established a specialist treatment centre in 2002/03 and now provide a range of support services from this centre. Numbers entering treatment have grown and in 2004/05 it was necessary to extend the centre. Last year 615 adults entered treatment compared to 245 referrals in 1997 (the number of these actually entering treatment is not known). A separate, specialist service is also available for young people.

In 2001, the Partnership decided to introduce an initiative (Dordrecht scheme) to challenge offending behaviour.

This included an element of drug treatment, as almost all the prolific burglars the scheme worked with, used drugs. Dordrecht has now been extended to provide Hartlepool's Prolific and Priority Offender Scheme, which targets the most prolific offenders in the town. Recently, one group of these most prolific offenders had reduced their offending by 44% when measured 12 months after completing the scheme. Our Hartlepool scheme is recognised as a national model of good practice.

Hartlepool has been an intensive Drug Interventions Project (DIP) area since 2004.

This scheme has consistently performed well, being the second nationally and first regionally, to achieve all the national targets during 2006. DIP and Dordrecht are now merged as one scheme.

Anti-social behaviour has also been a priority for the Partnership since its first strategy in 1999.

In 1999, anti-social behaviour was dealt with mainly by the Police, but now many partners are involved, and the Council and Housing Hartlepool staff often working alongside Police Officers to tackle the problems caused.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 introduced Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) and our numbers have gradually increased, mainly since 2003/04, when we had 1 ASBO. In September 2007 we had 35 active ASBO/CRASBOs, 9 of which are linked to juveniles.

A range of other 'tools' have been introduced by the Partnership, covering:

Early intervention and prevention initiatives

- Acceptable Behaviour Contracts
- Hartlepool Intervention Project (which targets 'at risk' young people and their family)
- FAST (team to combat low level ASB)
- COOL (diversionary after-school activities)
- Straightline (alcohol awareness programme for 12-16 year olds)
- ASBAD (ASB Awareness Day for Year 8 pupils)
- LIFE and SAFE programmes run by Fire Brigade for challenging young people:

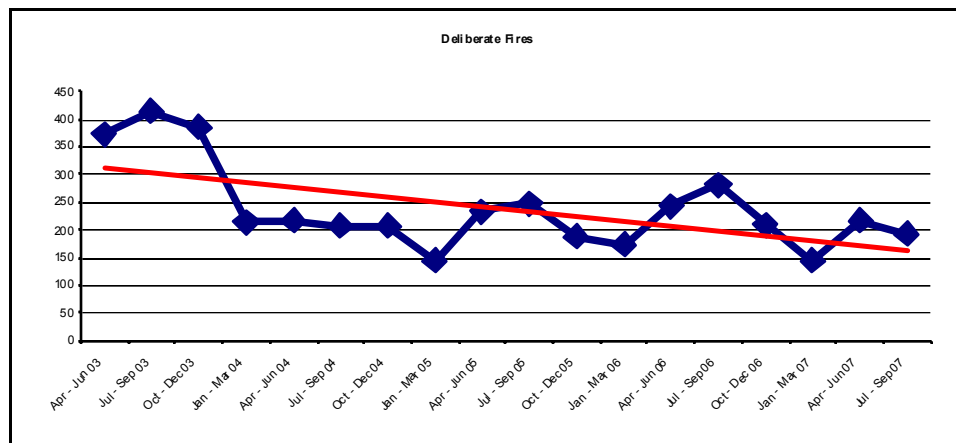
Enforcement

- Dispersal orders
- Penalty Notices for Disorder
- Crack house closures
- ASB injunctions
- Designated Public Places Order

Hartlepool has made use of all these 'tools'.

Hartlepool established a community warden scheme in 2001, to provide a visual patrolling presence on the streets in the most deprived wards. In the past 4 years Police Community Support Officers have been appointed by Cleveland Police and the warden scheme has been mainly reconfigured as an environmental enforcement team, to deal with littering, graffiti, fly-tipping and abandoned or untaxed vehicles.

Deliberate fires emerged as an issue for the Partnership approximately 5 years ago. Initially our focus was on vehicle fires, and once many of the older vehicles had been removed from the streets, this type of deliberate fire reduced. We still experience high levels of small/secondary fires, but partnership working to tackle problems on bonfire and mischief nights for example, has lead to a slight decrease.



STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Nationally, the Government has recently launched its new Crime strategy (Cutting crime. A new partnership approach 2008 – 2011) which has a number of key areas:

- stronger focus on serious violence
- continue pressure on anti-social behaviour
- renewed focus on young people
- new national approach to designing out crime
- continuing to reduce re-offending

A new national drugs strategy is due to be published early in 2008.

The Public Service Agreements (PSAs) and associated National indicators, which underpin these national strategies are:

PSA23 - make communities safer, which has 4 priority actions:

- Reduce the most serious violence
- Continue to make progress on serious acquisitive crime
- Tackle the crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour issues of greatest importance in each locality, increasing public confidence in the local agencies involved in dealing with these issues
- Reduce re-offending through the improved management of offenders

PSA25 - will aim to reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs to:

- The development and well-being of young people and families
- The health and well-being of those who use drugs or drink harmfully and
- The community, as a result of associated crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour

In addition, PSA14, increase the number of children and young people on the path to success, includes measures covering:

- first time entrants to the Criminal Justice System aged 10-17 and
- young people frequently using drugs, alcohol or volatile substances

Locally, the vision of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership is to: “reduce crime and drugs misuse to build a safer, healthier Hartlepool”.

The Hartlepool Partnership’s Community strategy aim for community safety is to: “make Hartlepool a safer place by reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and tackling drugs and alcohol”.

The Safer Hartlepool Partnership (as the community safety theme partnership for the Local Strategic Partnership i.e. Hartlepool Partnership), provides the lead role for development and delivery of the community safety outcomes in the Local Area Agreement (LAA).

SELECTING THE THREE YEAR OBJECTIVES AND ANNUAL PRIORITIES

When selecting 3 year objectives and annual priorities, the Safer Hartlepool Partnership needs to concentrate its actions into those aspects of crime, disorder and substance misuse where it considers the most beneficial effect will be gained from focused working in partnership, recognising that each partner agency will continue to deliver its mainstream activities, much of which is now co-ordinated with other strategic plans. In the past 2 years the Partnership has developed 3 specific strategies covering Social Behaviour, Domestic Violence and Alcohol harm reduction.

The annual priorities from the Safer Hartlepool Partnership Strategic Assessment 2007 (covering October 2006 – September 2007) have been agreed as:

- 1) drug dealing and supply
- 2) violent crime, including domestic abuse
- 3) acquisitive crime
- 4) criminal damage and anti-social behaviour, including deliberate fire setting
- 5) preventing and reducing offending, re-offending and the risk of offending
- 6) delivery of the existing alcohol harm reduction strategy 2006-2009, including the introduction of an effective local alcohol treatment service.

These priorities will be reviewed and updated when the annual Safer Hartlepool Partnership Strategic Assessment is conducted in Autumn 2008, 2009 and 2010.

These priorities link to the 4 strategic objectives set by the Partnership to reflect its areas of responsibility and the outcomes in the Local Area Agreement:

Strategic Objective 2008-2011	Annual Priority 2008/09
1. Reduce crime	1. Violent crime, including domestic abuse 2. Acquisitive crime
2. Reduce harm caused by illegal drugs and alcohol	3. Alcohol treatment and delivery of Alcohol Strategy 4. Drug dealing and supply
3. Improve neighbourhood safety and increase public confidence, leading to reduced fear of crime and anti-social behaviour	5. Anti-social behaviour and criminal damage, including deliberate fire setting
4. Reduce offending and re-offending	6. Preventing and reducing offending, re-offending and the risk of offending

In addition, the Safer Hartlepool Partnership has agreed that it must continue to provide drug treatment – which has a planning process prescribed by Government for both adults and young people; and take a longer term approach to improving reassurance of residents and increasing public confidence.

MEASURING THE SUCCESS OF THE STRATEGY

The Safer Hartlepool Partnership has been rated 'green' by Government Office North East for its performance during 2006/07. This indicates the Partnership is performing well.

A new Home Office performance management framework, known as APACS (Assessment of Police and Community Safety) will be introduced in 2008/09.

The SHP has selected four Improvement Indicators from the National Indicator suite for the community safety LAA outcomes and associated Strategy objectives. Targets are negotiated with Government Office North East. These, together with agreed and proposed new local indicators, are set out in Appendix 1.

SMART Action Plans for each annual priority, linked to the Strategy objectives, will be developed by 1st April and implemented during the following financial year. These annual action plans will form the basis of the LAA delivery and improvement plan for the same year. Each Action Plan will consider the aspects covering victims, offenders, locations and reassurance for the priority.

The SHP Performance and Planning Group (for crime and ASB) or Joint Commissioning Group (for substance misuse) will review performance on a quarterly basis and require an end of year report from the lead officer for each annual priority. These 2 groups will provide the SHP Executive with a quarterly update and recommendations for remedial action if performance is unsatisfactory.

The most important measure of success is the feedback received from the community in Hartlepool. The strategic assessment makes reference to the need to improve community engagement. Currently we utilise a range of mechanisms to provide information and advice to the community, for example:

- Partnership newspaper – 2 editions per annum
- Safer Hartlepool website
- Ringmaster (Neighbourhood Watch System)
- Press releases and newspaper articles
- Police and community safety forums
- Attendance at resident/community group meetings

A more inter-active mechanism is developing with the advent of Neighbourhood Policing – the visual audit process. This involves Police staff, partner agencies, Councillors and the local community undertaking a joint review of problems in their ward. The Partnership will build on this direct style of community engagement to identify future annual priorities as well as day-to-day problems to solve.

We will also continue to utilise survey mechanisms such as the Council's viewpoint Citizen panel, Police Authority user satisfaction survey and locally commissioned doorstep surveys. The results will be collected in the annual strategic assessment.

The Partnership intends to introduce 'face the people' sessions during 2008/09, which will enable residents to question senior officials from the 5 Responsible Authorities.

NEXT STEPS

The partnership must prepare SMART annual action plans for each of the annual priorities. Specific actions will include:

Strategic Objective – Reduce Crime

- long term preventative actions to tackle links between alcohol misuse, violence and anti-social behaviour
- increased emphasis on reducing domestic abuse, particularly repeat incidents
- interventions focusing on theft, using the problem solving triangle approach (i.e. actions for victims, offenders and locations)
- door-step crime
- continuing partnership actions to deliver more reductions in acquisitive crime

Strategic objective – Reduce harm caused by illegal drugs and alcohol

- introduction of alcohol treatment services
- care for drug users in local surgeries
- enforcement focusing on class A drugs

Strategic objective – Improve neighbourhood safety and increase public confidence, leading to reduced fear of crime and ASB

- enhanced activity to tackle under-age drinking and alcohol abuse
- a focus on parental responsibility
- better community engagement
- indepth review of criminal damage activity
- intergenerational projects

Strategic objective – reduce offending and re-offending

- improved early interventions for those young people at risk of offending, to prevent 'first time entrants' to the Youth Justice system
- more emphasis on reducing re-offending, particularly amongst drug users, prolific offenders and young offenders
- improved access to education, training and employment opportunities
- improved access to accommodation

SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP INDICATORS AND TARGETS

STRATEGY OBJECTIVE: REDUCE CRIME

Annual priorities 2008/09: - Violent crime including domestic abuse
- Acquisitive crime

Indicator	Baseline	Target		
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
<u>Improvement Indicator</u> (subject to negotiation with GONE) NI 16 serious acquisitive crime rate NI 20 assault with injury rate				
<u>Local Indicators agreed</u>				
1. number of domestic burglaries (with reward)	(2004/05) 821	644 (*2099)	-	-
2. number of vehicle crimes (with reward)	(2004/05) 1271	1024 (*3298)	-	-
3. number of incidents of local violence (with reward)	(2004/05) 1826	1650 (*5300)	-	-
4. number of repeat referrals to Police for incidences of domestic violence (with reward)	(2004/05) 1731	1531	-	-
5. number of perpetrators attending a perpetrator programme not re-offending within 6 months of completing programme (with reward)	(2004/05) 0	45	-	-
<u>Proposed new local indicators</u>				
NI 32 repeat incidents of domestic violence				

* indicates cumulative target for 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09

STRATEGY OBJECTIVE: REDUCE HARM CAUSED BY ILLEGAL DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Annual Priorities 2008/09: - Alcohol
- Drug dealing & supply

Indicator	Baseline	Target		
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
<u>Improvement Indicator</u> (subject to negotiation with GONE) NI 38 drugs related (class A) offending rate				

STRATEGY OBJECTIVE: IMPROVE NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY AND INCREASE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE, LEADING TO REDUCED FEAR OF CRIME AND ASB

Annual Priorities 2008/09: - ASB and Criminal damage, including deliberate fire setting

Indicator	Baseline	Target		
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
<u>Improvement Indicator</u> (subject to negotiation with GONE) NI 17 Perceptions of ASB				
<u>Local Indicators agreed</u> 1. % residents stating “teenagers hanging around on the streets is a problem” (with reward)	(2003/04) 66%	-	61%	-
2. NI 41 % residents stating “people being drunk or rowdy in public places” is a problem (with reward)	(2003/04) 57%	-	52%	-
<u>Proposed new local indicators</u> NI 42 perception of drug use and drug dealing				
Criminal damage				
Deliberate fires				

STRATEGY OBJECTIVE:

REDUCE OFFENDING AND RE-OFFENDING

Annual Priorities 2008/09:

Preventing and reduce offending, re-offending and the risk of offending

Indicator	Baseline	Target		
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
<u>Improvement Indicator</u> (subject to negotiation with GONE)				
<u>Local Indicators agreed</u> NI 111 First Time Entrants to Youth Justice System aged 10-17				
<u>Proposed new local indicators</u> NI 19 re-offending by young people				