

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Friday 4th November 2005

at 3.00 pm

in Committee Room B

MEMBERS: REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:

Cook, Coward, Fleet, Hargreaves, Iseley, Johnson, Kaiser, London, A Marshall, Rayner, Wright.

Resident Representatives:

James Atkinson, Mary Power and Iris Ryder

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2005
(*attached*)

4. ISSUES RAISED AT NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS

None.

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- 5.1 Governance Arrangements – Sub-Regional Partnerships – *Director of Regeneration and Planning*
5.2 Sub-Regional Partnerships Scrutiny-Scoping – *Scrutiny Support Officer*

6. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

22nd September 2005

Present:

Councillor: Pamela Hargreaves (In the Chair)

Councillors: John Coward, Frances London, Ann Marshall, Pat Rayner

Resident Representatives:

James Atkinson, Iris Ryder

Officers:

Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration and Planning
Mark Dutton, Housing and Regeneration Co-ordinator
Bill Carr, Hartlepool Revival
Brian Dixon, Hartlepool New Deal for Communities
Sajda Banaras, Scrutiny Support Officer
Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

7. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rob Cook, Bill Iseley, Stan Kaiser and Edna Wright.

8. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

9. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th August were confirmed.

10. Matters Arising

It was noted that the public had made a valuable contribution to the consultation process in relation to the local plan with regard to the Briarfields Allotments issue and it was hoped that the Forum's views would also be taken on board.

A resident representative raised the issue of vandalism to the buildings at Briarfields. It was noted that this was picked up at a previous meeting where the Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development) had indicated he was currently in discussions with regard to the buildings at Briarfields with the firm who provided the security arrangements for Tunstall Court.

11. Issues Raised at Neighbourhood Forums

None.

12. Presentation on Partnerships (*Director of Regeneration and Planning*)

The Director of Regeneration and Planning gave a comprehensive and detailed presentation on the current partnership arrangements affecting Hartlepool. These ranged from a regional level to a neighbourhood/area based level. The presentation highlighted the following areas.

The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) was a non-statutory body bringing partnerships together covering the seven themes from within the Community Strategy and the Community Empowerment Network (CEN) to look at neighbourhood renewal. As well as creating new partnerships, the LSP built on existing partnerships for example, the economic forum. LSPs were a key component of the Government's modernisation agenda with increased recognition of the importance of successful partnership working. Hartlepool's LSP consisted of a hierarchy of partnerships headed by the Hartlepool Partnership Board and was chaired by Hartlepool's MP with the Mayor as vice-chair. Various diagrams were included in the presentation that detailed the structure and links within the Local Strategic Partnership.

Partnership working was essential to achieve maximum value of limited resources, co-ordinate bids for external funding and to promote change. The strategic planning and co-ordination role of the Partnership was detailed in the presentation and included:

- Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy
- Integration with sub-regional and regional strategies
- Managing delivery of strategies and actions by partners
- Plans, actions and services "joined up" – all key stakeholders – including the local community.

The presentation also highlighted the importance of community engagement including:

- Allowing local communities to express aspirations, needs and priorities
- Consultation using a variety of methods
- Ensuring training and development was provided for the community and those providing services

- The development of the Neighbourhood Action Plans

The Director of Regeneration and Planning concluded his presentation by adding that partnership working was a key element of activity across all levels and that the LSP was a key tool for effective regeneration and service provision.

Members noted that it was clear there was a great deal of co-ordination in the management of the partnerships but wanted to know what the major issues were and how scrutiny could impact on this. The Director of Regeneration and Planning acknowledged that partnership arrangements was a huge area to look at and suggested the following areas for possible future scrutiny:

- The role of the sub-regional partnerships
- Challenges facing the local area agreement agenda
- The complexity of some relationships and partners
- The roles people had within the partnerships

There was some concern among members of the Forum of losing accountability if regional partnerships were to be developed. Some Members felt that local people should be made more aware of all the partnerships involved and what they actually had achieved. It was agreed that there needed to be more clarity on who the representatives were on the partnerships, and what, if any feedback was given and that more information be provided on Members and officers roles within these partnerships.

It was agreed to consider the following:

- Hartlepool's relationship to the sub-regional partnership
- The roles and responsibilities of people on partnerships
- The extent of Member involvement and their feedback mechanism
- Community involvement on partnerships
- Local Area Agreements

Decision

The Forum agreed that a scoping paper be brought back to the next meeting of this forum and this would include the terms of reference of the inquiry and a defined remit.

13. Housing Regeneration in Hartlepool *(Joint report of Director of Regeneration and Planning and Director of Neighbourhood Services)*

A detailed and comprehensive presentation was given to the Forum jointly by Mark Dutton, Housing and Regeneration Co-ordinator, Bill Carr from Hartlepool Revival and Brian Dixon from New Deal for the Communities.

The presentation gave the background to the housing regeneration in Hartlepool and detailed some key facts and issues around this. The Community Housing Plan was detailed in the presentation and showed that it was a Resident-led Housing Plan with Resident-led NDC principles. The plan included the demolition of 460+ houses, traffic calming measures and new alley-gates and lighting. It was indicated that £53m had been invested in Hartlepool since 2000 through New Deal for Communities funding with the key objective to make Hartlepool a place where people wanted to live.

A study had been carried out in 2003 on the north central area of Hartlepool and included 3000 houses in the Dyke House/Jackson ward areas. Funding for this project had been received from English Partnerships, North East Housing Board and Neighbourhood Renewal Funds. Hartlepool Borough Council currently owned 80% of the properties in this area and there had already been interest from potential developers.

A Housing Strategy and a Housing Regeneration Strategy had been developed and included:

- Securing a choice of housing in sustainable communities
- Developing appropriate intervention strategies and local master plans
- Planning, monitoring and managing

Work was currently underway on the demolition of some properties in the Hart Lane/Angus Street area of the town and a planning application had recently been approved by the Planning Committee for the redevelopment of the area with houses and bungalows on this site. The Belle Vue Area was an area that was being looked at for future development and consultation was currently being undertaken.

Members were concerned about the issue of social failure and felt this needed to be tackled in order to sustain the new developments. Brian Dixon indicated that NDC resources were utilised to tackle social problems as well as housing regeneration and had already contributed towards anti-drugs programmes as well as other initiatives. Bill Carr indicated that the sites to be cleared would be redeveloped with low-density housing with gardens. At the end of the programme of redevelopment, it was indicated that there would also be less private rented accommodation which should alleviate some of the social problems.

It was noted that this was an opportunity to be innovative with regards to developments being energy efficient. Mark Dutton added funding received from English Partnerships was on condition that any development met the high eco-homes standards. This would also contribute to a reduction in fuel charges for home-owners.

A Member asked how it would be ensured that the people currently living in the NDC areas would benefit rather than speculators looking to purchase properties to privately rent out. Brian Dixon indicated that packages had been put in place to help people purchase houses on the new developments

through grants or equity loans and residents in the NDC area would be given first choice to purchase properties. Several consultation events had taken place within the local area and residents had made some valuable contributions to the development of the proposals and some had taken the opportunity to choose particular plots to purchase within the development. Once all residents had been given the opportunity to purchase properties, the remainder would be marketed accordingly. A lot of residents had benefited through either taking the opportunity of moving away from the area altogether to be closer to family etc or by having the chance to move up the property ladder. Both of these options may not have been available to many residents prior to the development proposals.

It was noted that the success of the development in the Hart Lane area had already had a positive effect on future proposals with properties being purchased before finalised plans had been developed. It was noted that although there had been no formal analysis done to compare the process of the developments in different areas, this might prove useful in the future. The majority of residents were happy to see the development taken forward as soon as possible. It was added that the developers, Yuills, would be on site next September with expected completion in 2008.

A Member had noted some businesses' concerns at the support received from NDC with regard to their relocation. Bill Carr indicated that a lot of discussions had taken place with businesses in the area and that the majority had agreed valuations with alternative premises being offered.

Everyone involved was thanked for their very informative presentation and it was indicated that it would be useful for an update presentation to be given to the Forum at a future date.

Decision

Members noted the report.

PAMELA HARGREAVES

CHAIRMAN

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SCRUTINY FORUM REPORT

4th November 2005



Report of: Director Regeneration & Planning

Subject: GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS SUB-REGIONAL
PARTNERSHIPS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information on the arrangements and operation of the sub-regional partnerships and provide the context to a presentation at the Regeneration and Planning Scrutiny Forum Meeting on 4th November 2005.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the last Forum meeting Members received information received information about partnerships and how they operated at various levels including at the regional, sub-regional, locality (unitary authority) and community or neighbourhood level and also theme categories. This report relates to the sub-regional level of partnership.
- 2.2 Sub-regional partnerships have been encouraged by government and regional agencies as an efficient means of addressing strategic or specialist issues across areas wider than unitary authority's boundaries. While there has been a move towards regionalisation there is still felt to be value in looking at some issues over a wider area than unitary authorities especially those related to economic regeneration, planning, transport and more recently housing.
- 2.3 There are a number of informal partnership arrangements at a sub-regional level for example relating to tourism. This report focuses on the three or four main formal sub-regional partnerships in which the Council participates and the governance arrangements established throughout those bodies. These include the Tees Valley Partnership, the Joint Strategy Committee/Unit, Tees Valley Living and Tees Valley Regeneration.

3. THE TEES VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

3.1 The Tees Valley Partnership is the main economic regeneration partnership in the Tees Valley representing the area covered by the five unitary authorities of Hartlepool, Stockton, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Darlington. The Tees Valley Partnership was established in 2000 with the encouragement of the regional development agency One Northeast. It has the following principal aims and objectives:

- To act as the strategic body for the economic development and regeneration of the Tees Valley and co-ordinating the activities of the main agencies involved to ensure a 'joined up' approach to development.
- To monitor and implement the Tees Valley Partnership Sub Regional Programme.
- To act as a lobby and work with One NorthEast, the Government Office North East and the North East Regional Assembly to ensure that the Tees Valley's needs are properly recognised in their activities.
- To act as the principal delivery agent for One NorthEast in respect of both the Regional Economic Strategy and in the allocation and monitoring of their delegated resource.

3.2 The Tees Valley Partnership has a board, and executive and a secretariat. Its main strategic document is the Tees Valley Vision Strategic Framework and it operates the Tees Valley Development Programme funded by One Northeast. Its governance arrangements have recently been reviewed.

4. THE TEES VALLEY JOINT STRATEGY COMMITTEE & UNIT

4.1 The Tees Valley Joint Strategy Committee and its support unit is the longest standing sub-regional partnership having being established at government reorganisation in 1996. It represents the five local authorities in the Tees Valley and is composed of 22 elected members from the five authorities. Its main functions relate to strategic planning, transport, economic development and information and forecasting.

4.2 Though it no longer has to prepare a statutory structure plan, it has a significant input into regional strategies and plans, facilitates the preparation of sub regional strategies and assists the unitary authorities with specialist services such as demographics and statistics. The Joint Strategy Committee considers major planning applications that affect the Tees Valley. The organisation of the unit was recently reviewed.

5. TEES VALLEY LIVING

- 5.1 Tees Valley Living is the partnership set up to lead and co-ordinate housing market renewal in the Tees Valley. Tees Valley Living is an association of local authorities and other agencies with a remit to address the problems of low demand housing and housing market failure in Tees Valley (Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees). Established in May 2003, its purpose is to make a case for substantial funding for ambitious, long-term plans for transforming neighbourhoods through the restructuring of the housing market across the Tees Valley.
- 5.2 Tees Valley Living is made up of the five Tees Valley local authorities, four Registered Social Landlords, the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit, Tees Valley Regeneration, Darlington Building Society and the House Builders Federation. It is supported by the Tees Valley Partnership (through One NorthEast), English Partnerships, the Housing Corporation and Government Office for the North East.
- 5.3 It has a board and an executive and has commissioned a number of research documents and prepared a strategy for housing market renewal in the Tees Valley. It has secured £23m of funding in principle and is bidding for additional resources. The governance arrangements of the partnership have recently been reviewed.

6. TEES VALLEY REGENERATION

- 6.1 Tees Valley Regeneration came into being in 2002 as one of the first wave of urban regeneration companies established by the Government across England. Its aim is to create development and investment opportunities and to deliver sustainable and meaningful economic activity for the long-term development of the Tees Valley focusing upon five key flagship projects including Victoria Harbour in Hartlepool.
- 6.2 As a company Tees Valley Regeneration's shareholders are the five Tees Valley councils; Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton on Tees; the Regional Development Agency, One NorthEast; and English Partnerships, the national regeneration agency.
- 6.3 In 2003, Tees Valley Regeneration was merged with the Tees Valley Development Company (TVDC), which has a focus on inward investment.
- 6.4 Tees Valley Regeneration has a board as well as partnership arrangements for each of its flagship projects.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Members are recommended to note this report as the context to a presentation to the Forum meeting on 4th November 2005.

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SCRUTINY FORUM REPORT

4th November 2005



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SUB-REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY-
SCOPING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To make proposals to Members for the Scrutiny Investigation into Sub-Regional Partnerships.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the last meeting of this Forum on September 22 2005, Members received a detailed presentation from the Director of Regeneration and Planning into partnerships. Members received information clarifying what constitutes a partnership, received information about how the Authority was represented on the partnerships and thereafter sought to establish an aim for the Scrutiny Investigation.
- 2.2 Based on the issues raised in that briefing meeting, this report presents a scoped investigation with a clear remit for the inquiry and timetable for Members to consider.

3. OVERALL AIM OF THE INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 To assess the governance arrangements surrounding Sub-Regional and Local Partnerships on which Hartlepool Borough Council is represented.

4. PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 4.1 The following Terms of Reference for the review are proposed:-
- (a) To determine the extent of partnership working throughout the Authority.

- (b) To identify the Sub-Regional Partnership Bodies on which Hartlepool Borough Council participates and the governance arrangements established throughout those bodies.
- (c) To review the Hartlepool Partnership and consider the governance arrangements established throughout the Partnership.
- (d) To review the roles and responsibilities of Elected Members nominated to serve on the partnerships, including feedback mechanisms into Council.
- (e) To clarify the role of the Community and Voluntary sector, and determine how better links can be established with Community and Voluntary Sector organisations.
- (f) To examine best practice in other Authorities.

5. POTENTIAL AREAS OF ENQUIRY/SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

- 5.1 Members of the Forum can request a range of evidential and comparative information throughout the Scrutiny review.
- 5.2 The Forum can invite a variety of people to attend to assist in the formation of a balanced and focussed range of recommendations as follows:-
 - (a) Director of Regeneration and Planning
 - (b) Councillors serving on Sub-Regional Partnerships
 - (c) Chief Executive - Tees Valley Partnership
 - (d) Chief Executive - Tees Valley Living
 - (e) Head of Community Strategy
 - (f) Representatives from Tees-Valley wide Community & Voluntary Sector Organisations that actively operate at a Sub-regional level. For example HVDA

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 6.1 Community engagement plays a crucial role in the Scrutiny process and section five details who the Forum could involve. However, thought will need to be given to the structure in the way that the Forum wishes to encourage those views.

7. PROPOSED TIMETABLE OF SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

- 7.1 Detailed below is the proposed timetable for the review to be undertaken, which may be changed at any stage. In addition Members may wish to review the project plan for the review which will be presented to Members at the meeting.

⇒ **4 November 2005 – Approval of the Scoping Paper and; First evidence gathering session into “Governance Arrangements and Sub-Regional Partnerships”**

Meeting of the Forum to receive a briefing note/presentation to provide an overview of the key issues.

⇒ 8 December 2005 – Evidence to be determined

⇒ 26 January 2006 – Evidence to be determined

⇒ 3 March 2006 – Consideration of Draft Final Report

⇒ 7 April 2006 – Consideration of Final Report by Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.

⇒ 2nd May 2006 – Consideration of Final Report by Cabinet

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Members are recommended to agree the remit of the Scrutiny investigation.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Contact Officer:- Sajda Banaras – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executives Department – Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523 647
Email: sajda.banaras@hartlepool.gov.uk