

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE AGENDA



Friday 14 March 2008

at 1.30 p.m.

in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE:

Councillors Akers-Belcher, Brash, R W Cook, S Cook, Fleet, Flintoff, James, Laffey, A E Lilley, G Lilley, A Marshall, Plant, Preece, Shaw, Simmons and Wright.

Resident Representatives: Jean Kennedy, Iris Ryder and Linda Shields

- 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 8th February 2008 *(attached)*
 - 3.2 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2008 *(to follow)*
- 4. RESPONSES FROM THE COUNCIL, THE EXECUTIVE OR COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL TO REPORTS OF THE SCRUTINY COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

No Items
- 5. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS FROM COUNCIL, EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND NON EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

No Items
- 6. FORWARD PLAN**

No Items

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

7. CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS REPORTS / BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS

- 7.1 Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy – *Head of Community Strategy*
- 7.2 Corporate Plan 2008/09: Proposed Outcomes and Actions– *Assistant Chief Executive*
- 7.3 Draft Corporate Plan 2008/09 – Verbal Feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees– *Scrutiny Manager / Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees*

8. CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL MONITORING/CORPORATE REPORTS

- 8.1 Third Quarter Corporate Plan Progress and Revenue Financial Management Report 2007/08 – *Assistant Chief Executive / Chief Financial Officer*

9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- 9.1 Draft Scoping Paper – CCTV Referral – *Scrutiny Manager (to follow)*

10. CALL-IN REQUESTS

11. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- i) **Date of Next Meeting Friday 18th April 2008, commencing at 2pm in the Council Chamber**

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

8 February 2008

The meeting commenced at 1.30 p.m. at Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer.

113. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Akers-Belcher, Brash, R W Cook, S Cook, Fleet, Flintoff, James, Laffey, A E Lilley, G Lilley, A Marshall, Plant, Preece, Shaw, Simmons and Wright and Resident Representatives Jean Kennedy, Iris Ryder and Linda Shields.

114. Inquorate Meeting

In the absence of a quorum the meeting was adjourned. The Chairman had determined that the meeting be reconvened at 4.30 p.m. on 12th February 2008. It was noted that the absence of a quorum was due to the attendance of Members at a funeral.

12 February 2008

The meeting was reconvened at 4.30 p.m. at Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Upon Reconvening the following Members were present:

Councillor: Marjorie James (In the Chair)

Councillors Brash, R W Cook, S Cook, Fleet, Laffey, A Marshall, Plant, Preece, Shaw and Simmons.

Resident Representatives: Iris Ryder and Linda Shields

Officers: Christine Armstrong, Corporate Services Manager
Charlotte Burnham, Scrutiny Manager
Amanda Whitaker, Democratic Services Team Manager

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman made a statement to the Committee following receipt of a serious complaint, from Councillor Laffey, who had experienced difficulty gaining access to the Civic Centre. The Chairman advised that she wanted Councillor Laffey's attendance at the joint Scrutiny/Cabinet meeting to be recorded and expressed concern regarding access arrangements to the Civic Centre for Members attending 'out of hours' meetings. Councillor Laffey explained to Members the background to her complaint.

115. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Akers-Belcher and Wright and Jean Kennedy.
Apologies were also submitted on behalf of Councillor Hargreaves, Portfolio Holder for Performance.

116. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

117. Minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2008

Confirmed.

In response to matters arising from the minutes the Scrutiny Manager undertook to pursue, with the appropriate Officer, the provision of further information on the Alcohol Strategy.

118. Portfolio Holder's Response to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee's Final Report – Review of the Authority's Postal Services *(Joint Report of the Chief Personnel Officer and the Deputy Mayor/Portfolio Holder for Performance)*

The report set out feedback on the recommendations from the investigation into the review of the Authority's Postal Service which had been reported to Cabinet on 7th January 2008. Cabinet had approved the recommendations in their entirety. Details of each recommendation and proposed actions to be taken were provided in the Action Plan appended to the report.

It was noted that a progress report would be produced to enable Members to monitor the implementation of their recommendations.

Recommended

That the proposed actions detailed within the Action Plan be noted.

119. Scrutiny Topic Referral from Cabinet – 'Draft CCTV

Strategy' (Scrutiny Manager)**Current Status of the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2007/08 (Scrutiny Manager)**

The Scrutiny Manager informed Members of the recent scrutiny topic referral from the Cabinet, on 22 January 2008, to the Overview and Scrutiny Function. A copy of the Cabinet Minute Extract was appended to the report. It was noted that Cabinet had requested a scrutiny investigation into the appropriate CCTV camera system for Hartlepool with recommendations to be reported to Cabinet in three months time.

In addition to the notification of the Cabinet Referral, the Scrutiny Manager presented a further report and chart which outlined the current status of the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2007/08 as the current Municipal year drew to a close. Whilst the current capacity of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and the four standing Scrutiny Forums was extremely tight in light of their current workload commitments, it was likely that the delivery of the four standing Scrutiny Forum's work programmes was achievable. With the exception of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, which currently had the following scrutiny investigations/referrals outstanding as outlined below, as a result of the challenging work programme agreed earlier this year:-

- (a) The Authority's Use of Agency Staff – to review the Authority's approach to the long-term use of agency workers (Work Programme Item); and
- (b) National Post Office Closure Programme Consultation (commences 12 February 2008 for six weeks only) (Referred by Elected Mayor).

Members were requested to consider the practicalities of undertaking the CCTV and Post Office Closures Programme Scrutiny Referrals during the 2007/08 Municipal Year. The Committee was requested also to determine whether the outstanding work programme item entitled 'Use of Agency Staff' continued to be a priority for completion during the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

In light of the mandatory CCTV Referral from Cabinet, Members considered that the 'Use of Agency Staff' item should be carried over into the 2008/09 Work Programme and undertaken as Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee's first work programme item. In respect of the CCTV mandatory referral item, the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee was limited to being able to produce a scoping report and interim report only within this 2007/08 Municipal Year as it nears to a close. Concerns were expressed by Members that Cabinet did not appear to have taken into consideration the Work Programme of the Overview and Scrutiny Function by making a referral as the Municipal year drew to a close. The Chairman agreed to write to Cabinet, on behalf of the Committee, to convey the concerns expressed by Members.

Recommended

- (i) That the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee's outstanding work programme item entitled 'Use of Agency Staff' be carried over as the first work programme item of the Committee for the 2008/09 Municipal Year;
- (ii) That in respect of the mandatory CCTV Cabinet Referral, an interim report be produced within the prescribed timescale by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee that informs an in-depth investigation to be undertaken by the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum, as part of its agreed Work Programme for the 2008/09 Municipal Year; and
- (iii) That the Chairman write to the Elected Mayor conveying the concerns expressed by Members of this Committee in relation to the need to have consideration of the challenging Work Programme of the Overview and Scrutiny function as the 2007/08 Municipal Year draws to a close..

120. Forward Plan

No Items.

121. Final Report – Availability of Good Quality Affordable Social Rented Accommodation in Hartlepool *(Chair of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum)*

The Chair of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum presented his Scrutiny Forum's findings following completion of its investigation into 'The Availability of Good Quality Affordable Rented Social Accommodation in Hartlepool'.

The report detailed evidence from a wide range of sources to assist in the formulation of a balanced range of recommendations to the Cabinet as follows:-

- (a) That a review of land availability, including brownfield and greenfield sites, be undertaken with the aim of identifying possible additional sites for affordable rented social housing;
- (b) That as part of the review of the local planning policy provision be made for the identification of suitable sites for the provision of affordable housing;
- (c) That a criterion based policy supporting in principle the disposal of Council land to RSL's at below market value be created, with the requirement that each case be considered, against a set criteria, on its own merits whilst taking into consideration the possible impact on capital receipts;
- (d) That a rigorous analysis be undertaken of the results of the 'Housing Needs Assessment' together with testing and

refinement to determine future developments and requirements of the town, including the provision of flats;

- (e) That ways of working more closely in partnership with RSL's for the provision of affordable rented social accommodation in the town, and the development of opportunities contained within the Green Paper, be explored;
- (f) That the provision of housing for elderly / disabled residents in Hartlepool needs to be explored in innovative ways to, for example explore possible provision of accommodation on one level on sites where conventionally large building plots required for bungalows are not available;
- (g) That local planning policy be revised, through the Local Development Framework, to require the provision within all new housing developments of good quality affordable housing, including rented social housing and accommodation for elderly / disabled and young / single residents; and
- (h) That the Council's local planning policy be amended / updated to include provision for affordable accommodation, and in particular social rented accommodation.

Recommendation

That the recommendations of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum be approved and be forwarded to the Executive for consideration.

122. Progress Report – Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee (Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee)

The Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee presented a report that updated Members on the progress made by this Committee, since consideration of the last progress report on 9 November 2007. The report set out progress on the scrutiny work programme 2007/08. It covered also the following general overview and scrutiny issues:-

- Scrutiny Support Budget Pressure for 2008/09/Proposed Creation of a Health Scrutiny Forum,
- Informal Meeting of the Scrutiny Chairs – 15th January 2008
- Final Reports Recently Considered/Awaiting Consideration.

Recommendation

That the progress made to date by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee be noted.

123. **Progress Report – Children’s Services Scrutiny Forum** *(Chair of Children’s Services Scrutiny Forum)*

The Chair of the Children’s Services Scrutiny Forum presented a report that updated Members on the progress made by the Forum since the last progress report on 9 November 2007. The areas covered were:-

- The Executive’s Budget and Policy Framework Consultation Proposals for 2008/09
- Access to Recreation Activities for Children and Young People in Hartlepool
- Joint Area Review – Progress Report
- South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum Scrutiny Referral – Scrutiny Investigation into ‘The Sustainability of Externally Funded Community Initiatives in Schools’
- Forward Plan

Recommended

That the progress made by the Children’s Services Scrutiny Forum be noted.

124. **Progress Report – Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum** *(Chair of Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum)*

The Chair of the Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum presented a report that updated Members on the progress made by the Forum since the last progress report on 9 November 2007. The areas covered were:-

- Response to the Executive’s Budget and Policy Framework Consultation Proposals for 2008/09
- Withdrawal of Emergency Practitioner Services at the Wynyard Road Primary Care Centre in Hartlepool Scrutiny Investigation
- North East Ambulance Service Proposals for Ambulance Contact Centres
- Funding of a Contract Monitoring System
- Momentum: Pathways to Health Care
- Changes to the Provision of Hospital Services
- Individualised Budgets and Personalisation
- Referral from Hartlepool Primary Care PPI Forum
- Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee
- Scrutiny Chair’s Proposal for Splitting the Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum
- Forward Plan

Circulated at the meeting was a report prepared by the Chair of the Scrutiny Forum which informed Members of the current position of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust's Momentum Pathways to Healthcare programme within the framework of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee, with reference to the emphasis on the Section 244 Consultation leading to the creation of a new hospital serving Hartlepool and North Tees.

Members of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee had been informed, on 6 February 2008, that the Independent Reconfiguration Panel's recommendations had been split into the following specifics:-

- (a) location of new hospital serving Hartlepool, Stockton, Easington and Sedgefield
- (b) functional content of new hospital
- (c) any relevant changes to services and facilities in a community setting as a result of (a) and (b)
- (d) specialist neonatal intensive care services serving Teesside as a whole
- (e) other more specialised services or other services that might be relocated into the new hospital

The Director of Strategic Service Development at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust had argued that for the purposes of a Section 242 Consultation, the above specifics could be taken as two separate consultation exercises, mainly specifics (a), (b) and (c) as one exercise and specifics (d) and (e) as a second exercise. The report set out the rationale behind the two separate consultation exercises. In order to ensure co-terminosity with such arrangements, the Chair of the Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum (who also serves as a Member on the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee), had proposed that Members of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee form a concurrent Committee from affected Members; those affected Members being representatives from Hartlepool and Stockton Borough Councils already involved with the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee and co-opted membership to representatives from Durham County Council.

Although there had been broad agreement at the Joint Committee meeting for the proposal put forward by the Chair of the Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum, Stockton Borough Council had requested time to consult with their Health Scrutiny Forum before clarifying their position at the next meeting of the Joint Committee on 25th February 2008.

Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee were requested to formulate a view to be presented at the next meeting of the Joint Committee. Whilst some concerns were expressed, Members unanimously supported Hartlepool Borough Council's involvement in all aspects of the consultation process through the Tees Valley Joint arrangement and on that basis urged the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee to progress the formation of two separate committees as outlined below :-

Part 1 of the 244 Consultation – Given this part of the consultation affects only those resident populations in Durham, Hartlepool and Stockton, a Committee is formed under the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee from representatives of these Local Authorities with regard to the location and content of a new hospital north of the River Tees. In doing so, this Committee would be coterminous with the arrangements already agreed by the relevant NHS bodies; and

Part 2 of the 244 Consultation - Be undertaken by the membership of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee with additional representatives from Durham and North Yorkshire County Councils, as the discussion surrounding neonatal intensive care and specialist services serving Teesside as a whole impacts on resident populations of Darlington, Stockton, Middlesbrough, Hartlepool, Redcar, Durham and North Yorkshire.

Recommended

- (i) That the progress made by the Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum be noted
- (ii) That the Chair of the Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum's proposal that Members of the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee form two separate committees for Part 1 and 2 of the 244 Consultation known as Momentum – Pathways to Healthcare, as outlined in detail above, be supported.

125. Progress Report – Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum (*Chair of Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum*)

A report was presented that updated Members on the progress made by the Forum since the last progress report on 9 November 2007. The areas covered were:-

- The Executive's Budget and Policy Framework Consultation Proposals for 2008/09
- Transportation Links to Hospital Services and Neighbourhood Services Department Transport Provision
- Forward Plan

Recommended

That the progress of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum be noted.

126. Progress Report – Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum (*Chair of Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum*)

The Chair of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

presented a report that updated Members of the progress made by the Forum since the last progress report on 9 November 2007. The areas covered were:-

- The Executive's Budget and Policy Framework Consultation Proposals for 2008/09
- 'Closing the Loop' – Youth Unemployment
- Six Month Progress Report – Scrutiny Investigation into Railway Approaches
- Safer Hartlepool Partnership's Draft Strategy 2008-11
- Final Report – Availability of Good Quality Affordable Rented Social Accommodation in Hartlepool
- Seaton Carew Regeneration Needs and Opportunities
- Forward Plan

Whilst recognising the benefits of Focus Groups, the Chair highlighted that consideration needed to be given to the compilation of a training programme to make the Focus Groups more productive. In addition, the Chair recognised the need to introduce a Protocol to be adopted in respect of meetings of the Focus Groups.

Recommended

That the progress of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum be noted and the submission of a letter to the Town's MP, Iain Wright, expressing concern and disappointment regarding the effectiveness of the judicial system, and the impact of the sentences imposed, be supported.

MARJORIE JAMES

CHAIR

SCRUTINY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

14th March 2008



Report of: Head of Community Strategy

Subject: COMMUNITY STRATEGY & NEIGHBOURHOOD
RENEWAL STRATEGY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the views of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on the third draft of the revised Community Strategy, *Hartlepool's Ambition*, (**Appendix 1**). A 10 week consultation period is underway closing on 14th April 2008.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The revised Community Strategy will, following adoption in summer 2008, provide a new strategic framework for Hartlepool. The Strategy also incorporates a revised Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and Sustainable Development (Local Agenda 21) Strategy.

3. RELEVANCE TO SCRUTINY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

- 3.1 The Community Strategy and the Local Agenda 21 Strategy form part of the Council's Policy Framework. Further information on the Review can be found in the attached Cabinet Report (**Appendix 2**).

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Scrutiny Coordinating Committee is asked to feedback views on the third consultation draft of the Community Strategy by 14th April 08.



hartlepool**partnership**

Hartlepool's Ambition

Community Strategy & Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

3rd Draft

February 2008

Text extracts can be made available in Braille, talking tapes and large print, on request. If you would like information in another language or format, please ask us.

إذا أردت المعلومات بلغة أخرى أو بطريقة أخرى، نرجو أن تطلب ذلك منا.
(Arabic)

যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদেরকে বলুন।
(Bengali)

ئەگەر زانیاریت بە زمانیکی کە یا بە فۆرمیکی کە دەوی تکایە داوامان لی بکە
(Kurdish)

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھئے۔
(Urdu)

यदि आपको सूचना किसी अन्य भाषा या अन्य रूप में चाहिये तो कृपया हमसे कहे
(Hindi)

Jeżeli chciałoby Państwo uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innym formacie,
prosimy dać nam znać.
(Polish)

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。
(Cantonese)

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Foreword

Mayor Stuart Drummond
Vice Chair of the Hartlepool Partnership



The first five years since I was elected as Mayor of Hartlepool in 2002 have passed quickly; it has been an exciting and challenging time. It was in April 2002 that the Hartlepool Partnership produced its first Community Strategy setting out a framework for innovation and improvement across the town.

Many of the Strategy's priority aims matched my concerns – the quality of the local environment, community safety and providing activities for young people. Taking on the role of Chair of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership meant I could take a hands-on role in driving forward these improvements, working with partners and local people to ensure our everyday activity makes a full contribution to improving community safety.

Over the first phase of the Strategy's delivery there have been some impressive improvements. Since 2003/4 the number of burglaries has halved. In practical terms that means 654 fewer burglaries every year and very many families and vulnerable older people not suffering the effects of crime.

The quality of our local environment has also improved. Operation Clean Sweep has been the catalyst for dramatic improvements to the local environment and has given people a new sense of ownership of their local community.

The establishment of a Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership ensures that young people's voices will be heard in the preparation and delivery of services.

Five years on we have reviewed the Community Strategy and I'd like to thank all those who gave their time and effort to support the process. This third draft takes account of changes within Hartlepool and further afield. It is purposely not a detailed plan, but a renewed commitment for partnership working across Hartlepool at all levels. The Strategy builds on the practical achievements and lessons learned during the first years of implementation.

It also raises the bar. To make further improvement a large number of people need to support its delivery. Residents' Associations, community and voluntary groups as well as local businesses and large public organisations all need to work to influence the individual everyday choices we all make.

And we need to make the right choices to secure a future that is fairer for us all now and for future generations. I want Hartlepool to have a strong local economy. I want its residents to have decent homes in places with clean, safe public spaces, where people are able to lead healthy lives and enjoy their local environment.

Our task now is to deliver. The debate has started. And I'd urge you to get involved.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stuart Drummond".

February 2008

Introduction

Hartlepool's Ambition

The Community Strategy Review was launched in May 2006, a year that also marked the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Ralph Ward Jackson. The founder of West Hartlepool lived in Greatham Village and was responsible for establishing the layout of the town and erecting the first public buildings. He improved education and welfare facilities for local residents and developed the town's railways and docks. In the mid 1800s his vision and aspiration brought key individuals together to work in partnership to expand the town.

The Hartlepool Partnership

Hartlepool Partnership has worked to prepare this latest draft of the Community Strategy. The Partnership brings together all of the borough's partnerships delivering local services and is a network of partnerships. It provides opportunities for involvement for a wide range of organisations and individuals in the development and implementation of policy.

Community Strategy 2008

This updated Community Strategy builds on the 2002 Strategy and provides a revised policy framework for Hartlepool. It describes a long-term vision – Hartlepool's ambition and aspirations for the future:

Hartlepool will be a thriving, respectful, inclusive, healthy, ambitious and outward-looking community, in an attractive and safe environment, where everyone is able to realise their potential.

The Vision is further articulated through a set of Aims and associated Objectives grouped into eight themes:

1. Jobs and the Economy
2. Lifelong Learning & Skills
3. Health & Care
4. Community Safety
5. Environment
6. Housing
7. Culture & Leisure
8. Strengthening Communities

Housing and Environment are established as themes in their own right acknowledging the increased drive to bring about Housing Market Renewal and the importance residents place on the quality of their local environment.

In 2002 a Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy was published alongside the Community Strategy. This identified 7 priority neighbourhoods where regeneration activities would be targeted and mainstream resources directed to accelerate improvements in quality of life.

The 2002 Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy set out Terms of Reference for Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs) to be developed for the 7 priority neighbourhoods. These NAPs are now in place and set out a detailed understanding of residents' priorities for improvement together with an analysis of current trends.

This updated Community Strategy incorporates and updates the 2002 Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

7.1 APPENDIX 1

The Evidence Base

The Strategy is backed by rigorous evidence based analysis and underpinned by a rich understanding of local priorities and concerns. This clearly establishes key areas for improvement within the Jobs & the Economy, Community Safety and Health & Care Themes. Further information on the town's performance and background reports can be found on the Hartlepool Partnership's website www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk

Hartlepool in Context

Hartlepool is located on the North East coast within the Tees Valley sub region. It is a compact town, which is linked to the rest of the region and country by road, rail and sea. The A19 passes through the western rural part of the Borough and the A1 (M) is close by. Trains travel along the east coast connecting Hartlepool to Newcastle, the rest of the Tees Valley, York and London. Hartlepool also has a significant port facility and a world-class marina. Durham Tees Valley Airport is in easy reach and is one of the country's fastest growing regional airports. Passenger numbers are up 20% year on year and the airport has a 400,000 tonnes-per-annum cargo capacity.

Approximately 90,000 people live in the town of which 1.2% are from black and minority ethnic communities and almost a fifth are at or above retirement age. The town combines dense urban areas, an established marina and expanding suburbs with a number of distinct rural villages set in attractive countryside. It is a proud town steeped in history and maritime heritage and the people of the Borough have a strong sense of local identity.

A unitary local authority covers the town with a directly elected mayor and cabinet political structure. Other major service providers sharing the local authority boundary are the Hartlepool Primary Care Trust, the Police Basic Command Unit, the Probation Service and the local team of the Learning and Skills Council. There is a strong tradition of partnership working in the Borough, more recently through the work of the Hartlepool Partnership, which brings together the public, private, community and voluntary sectors.

The Borough has seen a major transformation over the past 20 years through regeneration programmes and public and private sector investment. The town now has major visitor facilities, a revitalised town centre with a wide range of retail facilities, sites of international nature conservation importance and significant business and investment opportunities. Hartlepool has become a successful, modern town equipped to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

Plans for Hartlepool Quays establish a cutting edge 20 year vision with ambitious proposals to improve accessibility, and create confidence in the market. A new mixed-use community will be created setting new housing, community facilities, offices and retail in high quality public open space. Routes to all surrounding areas will be improved through green infrastructure and a new pedestrian/cycleway bridge across the Harbour entrance to open up routes to the Headland. The scheme capitalises on the local coastline and creates a natural bond between the town centre, the Marina and the Headland ensuring Victoria Harbour acts not only as a centrepiece which local people can enjoy but also as an attractor for both visitors and inward investment.

The Hartlepool Community Strategy: The First Five Years

Hartlepool's first Community Strategy was published in April 2002. Major changes have taken place over the last five years in terms of improvements to the town and to how the Hartlepool Partnership and its partners are structured to deliver the Hartlepool Community Strategy.

Five Years on – what has been achieved?

Since the first Community Strategy was produced there are fewer people unemployed – down from 6.9% in 2002 to 4.6% in 2006. The number of young people and long-term unemployed has also reduced.

The opening of Queens Meadow, Hartlepool's flagship Business Park with its Innovation Centre, together with upgraded units at Brougham Enterprise Centre now guarantees a strong provision of high-quality business incubation units throughout the town. Exciting plans have emerged for the development of Hartlepool Quays comprising the Marina, the Town Centre plus Education & Skills Quarter, the historic Headland and Victoria Harbour.

Hartlepool College of Education now has three Centres of Vocational Excellence and the number of people achieving qualifications continues to increase. It has ambitious plans for its future development, driving up skills and raising aspirations.

Pupils achieving a grade A* to C at GCSE in Hartlepool has gone up by 3% per year, over the last three years, to 52% in 2005. This is an all-time high for the local authority. For the first time ever, the percentage of pupils achieving five A* to G grades at GCSE reached the national average. Performance at Key Stage 3 (aged 14) in English, Maths and Science and at Key

Stage 2 (aged 11) has improved so much that Hartlepool has been identified as one of the most improved local authorities in the country. Performance at many levels in English and Maths is now above the national average.

There have been significant reductions in crime. Domestic burglary and vehicle crime have reduced significantly since 2001. While there is still a long way to go to reduce the health inequalities that exist between life expectancy in Hartlepool and the rest of the country great progress has been made in reducing smoking. There have also been marked improvements in reducing teenage pregnancy.

The transfer of the housing stock to Housing Hartlepool has unlocked around £100m of private investment into funding improvements needed to ensure all former Council housing meets or exceeds Government Decent Homes standards by 2010. Excellent progress has been made in respect of the development and delivery of a sensitive programme of housing market renewal in central Hartlepool through a partnership with Hartlepool Borough Council, Housing Hartlepool and Hartlepool Revival, which will lead to the remodelling and transformation of some of the older housing areas around the town centre over the coming years.

An increasing number of people are satisfied with their area as a place to live – up to 83% in 2004 and more residents of Hartlepool now feel that there is a lot of community spirit in their area. Alongside these improvements steps have been taken to safeguard natural resources with recycling rates having increased by 20% in recent years.

7.1 APPENDIX 1

Evolving Partnerships

Since its inception in 1999, and following the publication of its first Community Strategy, the Hartlepool Partnership Board has transformed to meet the challenge of providing high quality local services and improving local quality of life. It continues to respond to government requirements and has learnt from best practice, both within the North East and further afield.

The Community Network has established itself as a strong co-ordinating body for the Hartlepool's residents, community and voluntary sector. The Protocol the network signed with the Hartlepool Partnership in 2005 strengthened working relationships and ensured the sector remained central to the Partnership's work in delivering the Community Strategy.

Theme Partnerships including the Environment Partnership and the Culture & Leisure Partnership have developed into fully operational strategic partnerships driving forward improvements. The new Local Development Framework provides for closer alignment of planning policy with the Community Strategy.

All service providers in Hartlepool have responded to the challenges set out in *Every Child Matters*. The Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership was established in 2005 and formed the foundation for the development of the Children's Trust for Hartlepool which came into being on 1st April 2007. One of its primary functions is to co-ordinate the delivery of *The Big Plan* – our Children and Young People's Strategic Plan.

The Hartlepool New Deal for Communities (NDC) Partnership is half way through its ten-year programme and significant improvements are being delivered. 44% of local residents are now in paid work compared to 38% in 2000.

There has been significant improvement in the educational achievement of young people in the area and over 370 over 16s have received bursaries to help them access training and education. The most marked improvements have occurred in Community Safety where the number of burglaries has decreased from 351 in 2001/02 to 115 in 2005/06.

In the north of the town £25m of renewal activity has been delivered to the Brus and St Hilda wards through the Single Regeneration Programme.

Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs) are now in place for the town's most deprived neighbourhoods. These plans set out community priorities and provide a tool for local residents, through NAP Forums, to monitor implementation. Improvements are resourced through mainstream and Neighbourhood Renewal Funding allocated by the Hartlepool Partnership.

But it doesn't stop there. The Partnership has agreed ambitious plans for the future. Hartlepool's achievements are being recognised internationally reflected in the decision to award Hartlepool the prestigious finishing port in the Tall Ships' Race in 2010. A second phase of development at Queens Meadow and Wynyard business parks will underpin our economic regeneration and work on the Tees Valley Coastal Arc, together with the ongoing revitalisation of the town centre housing, will continue the town's physical regeneration. In the last five years the Hartlepool Partnership has developed robust plans to take the 2002 vision forward and deliver Hartlepool's ambition.

Spatial Planning

Delivering Hartlepool's Ambition relies not only on effective partnerships able to deliver excellent services but also on the decisions we take to shape our local environment. Decisions on the location and quality of social, economic and environmental change affects everything from the location of major new transport or energy facilities and employment development, through to the development of new shops, schools, houses or parks needed by local communities.

This spatial planning operates at a range of different scales of activity, from the North East Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) to the more localised design and organisation of our town, villages and neighbourhoods.

A new planning system

The new planning system, introduced in 2004, establishes that development will be guided by the Regional Spatial Strategy, providing a broad development strategy for the north east region covering a fifteen to twenty year period and a series of Development Plan Documents within a Local Development Framework. This Local Development Framework is the spatial element of the Community Strategy.

From this "folder" of different policies and plans, of primary importance to the delivery of Hartlepool's Community Strategy are:

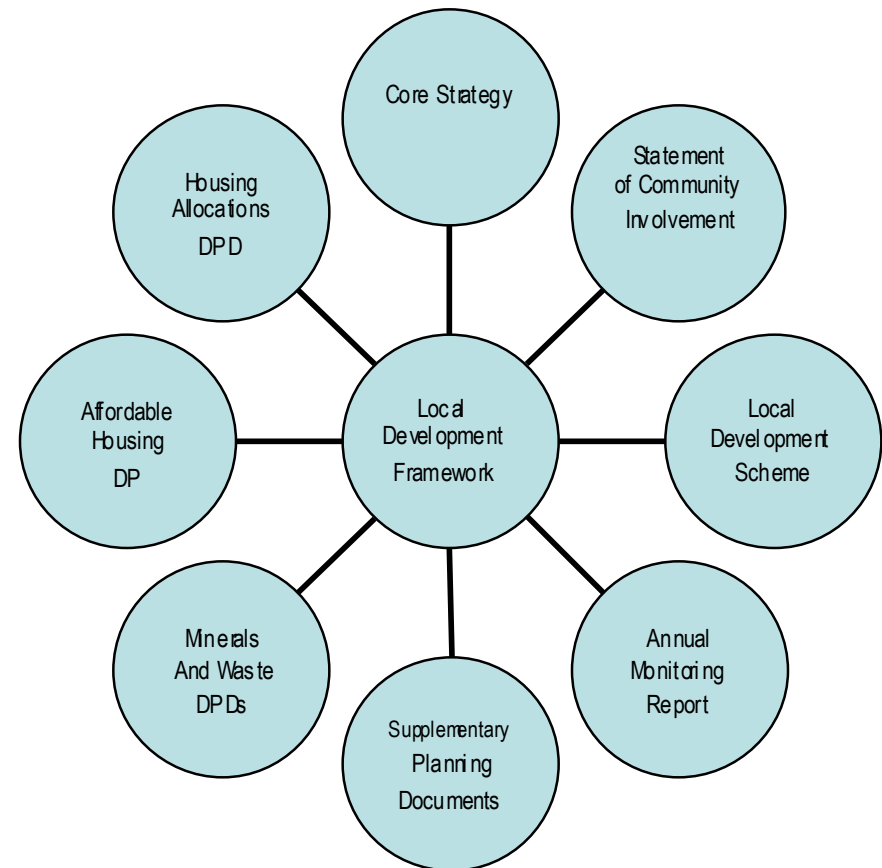
- The **Core Strategy** which sets out the spatial vision and core strategic policies for Hartlepool, reflecting the priorities established in the Community Strategy;
- The **Statement of Community Involvement** which sets out how the community, including voluntary and community groups, local residents, businesses, landowners, statutory agencies and others with an interest in the new planning system will be consulted and engaged in developing and delivering local planning policy and with respect to planning applications;
- **Development Plan Documents (DPDs)** including documents allocating land for future housing, making provision for affordable housing and addressing waste and minerals issues;
- **Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)** which expand on or provide further detail to policies in the Core Strategy or DPDs including guidance on planning obligations from developers, requirements for transport assessments and travel plans and for design and sustainable construction. They could also include all or relevant parts of **Parish Plans** prepared by village communities to address their specific socio-economic and environmental issues.

7.1 APPENDIX 1

These various documents within the Local Development Framework are prepared and updated at different times through a continuous process.

Hartlepool's Statement of Community Involvement was finalised in October 2006. Further information on the timing of preparation and review of other elements of the Local Development Framework are set out in Hartlepool's Local Development Scheme.

This can be viewed online by visiting Hartlepool Borough Council's website www.hartlepool.gov.uk and clicking on the planning link



Our Vision

“Hartlepool will be a thriving, respectful, inclusive, healthy, ambitious and outward-looking community, in an attractive and safe environment, where everyone is able to realise their potential”



Our Principles

In delivering the Community Strategy vision all members of the Hartlepool Partnership will strive to apply the following nine principles:

Effective partnership working

Working together as equals to deliver sustainable communities within Hartlepool and having a clear understanding of shared decision-making, risks, responsibilities and accountabilities.

Efficient partnership working

Increasing efficiency and achieving value for money through improved procurement, financial reporting and management. Delivering high quality local services and making the most of the resources available including people, money, property, data and information.

Skills and knowledge

Developing our own capacity and skills to improve performance, whilst providing opportunities for the community to improve their skills, capacity and life chances.

Decision making and communication

Communicating openly and honestly with the community in Hartlepool making the Partnership publicly accountable for its decisions. Decision-making will be rigorous and transparent and decisions will be based upon the best information available at the time.

Involvement and inclusion

All parts of the community regardless of where they live, or their gender, race, ethnicity, colour, disability, religion, sexual orientation, family and other circumstances, language, national or social origins, age or any other status, are encouraged to be involved at all stages in the development, delivery and monitoring of this strategy.

Integrity

Acting with honesty, selflessness, objectivity and trust, declaring interests and dealing with truth and completeness.

Sustainable development

Considering economic, social and environmental goals equally and in an integrated way ensuring the long term and global aspects of strategy and decision making are considered.

Performance management

Actively managing the delivery of the Strategy and, where information for monitoring purposes is not forthcoming, striving to address this.

Leadership and influence

Leading by example with enthusiasm in delivering the Strategy by applying these principles and using influence to encourage other partners and providers locally, regionally and nationally to do the same.

The Renewal of Hartlepool's Neighbourhoods

In achieving the Community Strategy Vision it is essential that improvements are made across the Borough. Within Hartlepool there are a number of neighbourhoods which have been identified as disadvantaged. These neighbourhoods need additional support in order to improve the life chances of the residents who live and work there.

Neighbourhood Renewal is a national policy which sets out to reduce inequalities in the most disadvantaged communities and to help tackle social and economic exclusion by lowering worklessness and crime and improving health, skills, housing and the physical environment.

The approach adopted within Hartlepool was set out previously in a separate Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (NRS) but has now been incorporated as an integrated, cross-cutting element of the Community Strategy. The aim and objectives of Neighbourhood Renewal in Hartlepool are set out below.

Our Aim

Continue the regeneration of Hartlepool and ensure that local people, organisations and service providers work together to narrow the gap between the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the borough, so that in the future, no-one is seriously disadvantaged by where they live.

Our Objectives

1. To improve methods of consultation and working with communities in disadvantaged neighbourhoods through the development and implementation of Neighbourhood Action Plans (NA Ps).
2. To work towards a better understanding of the key issues the Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA) face and improve baseline information and the analysis of resources.
3. To better focus mainstream services on the Neighbourhood Renewal Area, reducing the gaps between the conditions in these areas and the borough-wide, regional and national averages.
4. To seek additional resources for neighbourhood renewal on the basis of need and opportunity in order to improve the life chances of residents within the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
5. To ensure that the Neighbourhood Renewal Area benefit from opportunities that exist outside the area and contribute towards the achievement of Hartlepool's ambition.

Children and Young People

Children and Young People in Hartlepool face great opportunities and challenges. By working together we can improve their lives both now and into the future.

Hartlepool Borough Council is required to prepare and publish a Children and Young People's Plan by the Children Act 2004. It has a duty to "promote co-operation" between itself and its key partners. There has been agreement nationally on the five outcomes that really matter to the lives of children and young people and these are now law in the Children's Act 2004. The five outcomes are:

- Be Healthy (Health & Care)
- Stay Safe (Community Safety)
- Enjoy and Achieve (Lifelong Learning & Skills)
(Culture & Leisure)
- Make a Positive Contribution (Strengthening Communities)
- Achieve Economic Well-being (Jobs & the Economy)

Be Healthy refers to physical, mental, emotional and sexual health, with an emphasis on healthy lifestyles and making positive choices not to take drugs.

Stay Safe refers to being safe from maltreatment, neglect, sexual exploitation, accidental injury and death, bullying and discrimination, crime and anti-social behaviour.

Enjoy and Achieve refers to being ready for school, attending and enjoying school, achieving high standards at primary and secondary stages of education, personal and social development and recreation.

Make a Positive Contribution refers to the engagement of children and young people in decision-making and community support activities, positive and law-abiding behaviour, developing positive relationships and self-confidence and dealing with change and enterprise.

Achieve Economic Well-being refers to engagement in further education, employment or training, being ready for employment, living in decent homes and communities, being free from low income and having access to transport and material goods.

Hartlepool's Children and Young People's Plan – *The Big Plan* was published in April 2006 and aims to improve the lives of all children and young people in Hartlepool. The involvement of children and young people in the development of the plan has enriched the process and has ensured that it remains focussed on positive outcomes for each of them.

It is important that **all** young children and young people benefit from the Plan. This includes those children and young people who use mainly universal services; these are services everyone uses such as maternity services at birth and schools when children get older. Some children and young people need extra support such as if a child has a disability or is fostered.

In the following sections, Hartlepool's vision for each of the five outcomes for children and young people is shown together with associated objectives.

In the preparation of this Plan, Hartlepool partners have begun to work even more closely together and will continue to do so as this three-year rolling Plan is reviewed and refreshed.

Our Eight Aims

1. **Jobs and the Economy**
Develop a more enterprising, vigorous and diverse local economy that will attract new investment, enable local enterprises and entrepreneurs to be globally competitive and create more employment opportunities for local people.
2. **Lifelong Learning and Skills**
All children, young people, individuals, groups and organisations are enabled to achieve their full potential through equal access to the highest quality education, lifelong learning and training opportunities.
3. **Health and Care**
Work in partnership with the people of Hartlepool to promote and ensure the best possible health and well-being.
4. **Community Safety**
Make Hartlepool a safer place by reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, and tackling drugs and alcohol misuse.
5. **Environment**
Secure and enhance an attractive and sustainable environment that is clean, green, safe and valued by the community.
6. **Housing**
Ensure that there is access to good quality and affordable housing in sustainable neighbourhoods and communities where people want to live
7. **Culture and Leisure**
Create a cultural identity for Hartlepool which attracts people to Hartlepool and makes us proud to live and work here.
8. **Strengthening Communities**
Empower individuals, groups and communities, and increase the involvement of citizens in all decisions that affect their lives.

Jobs and the Economy

Introduction

The transformation of Hartlepool over the last 15 years has in many ways been remarkable with major changes to the built environment, massive reduction in unemployment and diversification of the town's economic base.

The proportion of all jobs in Hartlepool in the manufacturing sector has fallen from 23.2% in 1994 to only 17.4% in 2003. The infrastructure of Hartlepool's economy is now dominated by the public sector, which provides 33% of all employment, whilst the private sector is dominated by a few large employers.

About 75% of the Borough's jobs are in the NRS area and they are therefore physically convenient for many NRS area residents. Though the economy of the surrounding sub-region is not strong, it provides a significant pool of potential jobs.

Aim

Develop a more enterprising, vigorous and diverse local economy that will attract new investment, enable local enterprises and entrepreneurs to be globally competitive and create more employment opportunities for local people.

Objectives

Attract Investment

1. To invest in infrastructure and environmental improvements in industrial and commercial areas that encourage additional private investment, productivity and employment.
2. To encourage the implementation of improvements and developments in the town centre and other key employment sites such as Victoria Harbour, the Southern Business Zone (Longhill / Brenda Road / Queens Meadow) and Wynyard Business Park.
3. To encourage and support on-going investment by the indigenous business community and diversification of the rural economy.
4. To promote Hartlepool as a destination of choice for inward investors.
5. To develop Hartlepool's leisure and tourism offer to further increase the town's importance as a visitor destination.
6. To ensure the availability of suitable, sustainable, development sites to support business development and start ups.

7.1 APPENDIX 1

Be Globally Competitive

7. To improve business productivity by promoting access to new markets, use of Information Communication Technology, knowledge transfer and other business support measures.
8. To increase skill levels amongst the town's workforce ensuring that Hartlepool can compete in a global economy.
9. To establish an enterprise culture that helps to create high value business start-ups and sustain business survival and growth.
10. To continue to establish a strong and robust social enterprise sector that provides high quality service provision and employment opportunities in local neighbourhoods.

Create more employment opportunities for local people

11. To encourage and promote social and financial inclusion, ensuring that all local residents are provided with opportunities to achieve their personal, social and economic goals.
12. To improve skills for life and key skills and promote workforce development in industrial sectors with growth potential such as construction, leisure and culture and health and social care.
13. To promote good recruitment and employment practices amongst the local business community, encouraging diversity so that all residents, irrespective of gender,

ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion and belief have equal access to employment opportunities.

14. To encourage the development of links between education and business that create employment and training opportunities for young people.
15. To support the community and voluntary sector to continue its important role as a provider of employment and deliverer of services to the local community.
16. To target employment, training and enterprise provision such as New Deal, Work Based Learning and Pathways to Work at neighbourhoods with the worst labour market position and disadvantaged groups such as residents with disabilities, young people and carers in order to reduce worklessness, deprivation and poverty.

Children and Young People's Plan

Achieve Economic Well Being

Our vision for this outcome in Hartlepool is that children and young people will achieve the qualifications, develop the skills and be given the necessary life experiences to enable them to lead full and active adult lives. Also that all services will work collaboratively to ensure children and young people will have opportunities to succeed in their chosen career and live in households free from poverty.

Objectives:

- Ensure education and training is planned in a co-ordinated manner involving all partners and the needs of vulnerable groups are addressed.
- Ensure that all young people are prepared for working life by:
 - Ensuring all Key Stage 4 pupils have opportunities for vocational studies and work experience;
 - Ensuring that all young people aged 13 – 19 have impartial careers advice and guidance.
 - Continue to support regeneration initiatives that support the needs of children and young people.

7.1 APPENDIX 1

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Key Issues:

The Neighbourhood Renewal Area faces a number of challenges in the Jobs & Economy theme. Although the gap between the area and Hartlepool rates for unemployment and long-term unemployment have reduced the area still has higher than average levels of unemployment. There also remains a stubborn gap between the area and Hartlepool employment rate and also between the Hartlepool and national rates.

Over the past few years there has been an increase in the average number of annual VAT registrations but there is still a long way to go to reach the average regional rate. This highlights the continuing need for business support to enable residents to enter into self-employment, small businesses to grow and community and social enterprises to prosper.

Within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area key barriers include relatively low skill levels, low aspirations and limited entrepreneurship. Skills for life and vocational skills courses enable residents to gain the skills needed by local employers.

The proportion of residents of working age who are unable to work through incapacity is significantly above the Hartlepool rate. This is a particular concern for the Burbank and NDC neighbourhoods.

The image of the Neighbourhood Renewal Area can discourage investment. Recent improvements to business premises in the area have increased the use of available units but there is still scope for further development.

Objectives:

- Further develop employability initiatives that provide support to residents of the Neighbourhood Renewal Area to enable them to access jobs and training with specific focus on the target groups of young people, lone parents and residents on Incapacity Benefit.
- Support and encourage business investment and development in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area including the growth of community and social enterprises.
- Develop the skills, qualifications and adaptability of Neighbourhood Renewal Area residents, in order to better meet the needs of the labour market.
- Provide accessible and relevant advice and support to residents of the Neighbourhood Renewal Area to encourage self-employment and business creation.
- Investigate and remove the barriers that Neighbourhood Renewal Area residents face when moving into employment and training with particular focus on those related to benefits, aspirations, mobility, incapacity and discrimination.
- Seek to develop Employment and Training Charters within major capital programmes to enable job creation to be targeted at economically inactive residents from the NRS area.

Lifelong Learning and Skills

Introduction

The Lifelong Learning and Skills theme of the Community Strategy covers early years, school, further education, higher education, skills development and community learning.

Significant progress has been made in schools improving performance towards national rates. Attainment gaps are narrowing and in many areas performance in Hartlepool is now at or above national levels. Most children and young people, including those who are vulnerable, make better progress than expected given their starting points.

Hartlepool is embarking on a programme of rebuilding, remodelling, and refurbishing its secondary schools and the accompanying investment in ICT (Information and Communications Technology) over the coming years will support new ways of teaching and learning. The Primary Capital Programme will bring much needed investment and address the long-term needs of primary school buildings.

In terms of skills and qualifications there have been issues related to the attainment at the basic and intermediate levels, as well as developing the higher value skills needed to foster innovation.

The key problems relating to lifelong learning and skills within the NRS area are similar but more marked to other areas in the town and regionally. These are, primarily, low Key Skills levels in adults and lower attainment levels at the Key Stages of education for young people.

There remains a shortage of vocational skills within the NRS area. Whilst there has been significant investment in education and lifelong learning in recent years, the NRS neighbourhoods remain the most disadvantaged in terms of education and skills.

Aim

All children, young people, individuals, groups and organisations are enabled to achieve their full potential through equal access to the highest quality education, lifelong learning and training opportunities.

Objectives

Enjoy and Achieve

1. To raise aspirations and help all children achieve their potential by developing Children's Centres and Extended Schools, monitoring school performance and challenging and supporting schools to improve the quality of provision, and paying particular attention to the needs of vulnerable and under-achieving groups.
2. To ensure all children and young people can access a range of recreational activities including play and voluntary learning.
3. To work with the voluntary sector and other agencies to improve the range and quality of recreational learning opportunities for all especially children & young people.

7.1 APPENDIX 1

Increased skills and academic achievement

4. To create a culture of lifelong learning by raising expectation and promoting individual achievement, aspiration and self-esteem and encouraging entrepreneurship.
5. To improve skills for life achievement and promote employers' investment in workforce development as a route to increased competitiveness, higher productivity and profitability.
6. To increase the opportunities for highly skilled and educated people to remain in Hartlepool by encouraging an enterprise culture, helping create high value business start-ups and sustain business survival and growth.
7. To develop entrepreneurial skills in young people through enterprise education.

Service Providers and Facilities

8. To ensure the highest quality providers and provision, develop new delivery models, encourage innovation and extend the good practice.
9. To develop and support new and emerging approaches such as the adult apprenticeship pilot, the general diploma and specialised diplomas.
10. To improve the provision and dissemination of labour market information to enable service providers to respond effectively to employer and learner demands.

Support and Access

11. To improve the provision of effective information, advice, guidance and counselling to pupils, students, families, and the community as a whole, including voluntary groups.
12. To provide employers with advice and support on how their organisation's training and development needs can be best met.
13. To develop training provision which provides suitable progression routes to individuals to increase participation in learning, achievement and employment levels.
14. To improve personal, social and emotional development, confidence building, citizenship and health awareness and the opportunity to learn in disadvantaged neighbourhood.
15. To promote improved access to all types of education and training for all members of the community, promoting inclusion, breaking down barriers to learning including affordability, convenience, physical access and care, providing flexibility and new learning methods where practicable and widening participation for all,

Children and Young People's Plan

Enjoy and Achieve

Our vision for this outcome in Hartlepool is that children are given the best start in life through high quality early years provision and support for parents and carers. This will ensure that they are well prepared and ready for school, where they will enjoy their education and have opportunities to achieve their potential.

Objectives:

- Raise aspirations and help all children achieve their potential by:
 - Developing Children's Centres and Extended Schools as part of an integrated childcare strategy for under 5s;
 - Monitoring school performance and challenging and supporting schools to improve the quality of provision through an agreed School Improvement Strategy;
 - Support schools in developing robust self evaluation in order to ensure continuous improvement;
 - Paying particular attention to the needs of vulnerable and under-achieving groups.

7.1 APPENDIX 1

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Key Issues:

There are a number of issues within the Lifelong Learning & Skills theme for the Neighbourhood Renewal Area. Although participation by 3 year olds in nursery education is 100% there is a significant gap between the area and the Hartlepool rate for the percentage of children who have reached a good level of communication, social and emotional development by the end of the foundation stage. There is also a long way to go before Hartlepool reaches the national target of 50%.

Attainment at Key Stage 1 in Hartlepool is not far from the national average however the Owton, NDC and Dyke House/Stranton/Grange neighbourhoods were the lowest performing neighbourhoods. Key Stage 2 attainment is above the national average and although the gap between the Neighbourhood Renewal Area and the Hartlepool rates is closing attainment in Burbank, Owton, NDC and Dyke House/Stranton/Grange remains well below average. Attainment for Maths at Key Stage 3 is above the national rate whereas attainment on English and Science is still below. Pupils from the Owton, North Hartlepool and NDC neighbourhoods perform well below the Hartlepool average. Achievement of 5 A* to C GCSE grades at Key Stage 4 is below the national rate although performance has improved year on year. The gap between Hartlepool and the Neighbourhood Renewal Area has narrowed but the neighbourhoods of Burbank, NDC and North Hartlepool performed least well.

The proportion of residents in Hartlepool with low basic skills remains high particularly in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area. The number of Skills for Life qualifications has risen significantly with a greater proportion of those achieving it being from the area.

Achievement of Level 1 qualifications by residents in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area has reduced recently with achievement of Level 2 qualifications remaining static. The number of residents from the area achieving Level 3 and Level 4 qualifications has increased. However, there remains a gap between the levels of skills attainment in the area when compared to the rest of Hartlepool.

Local employers indicate that for applicants from the Neighbourhood Renewal Area there are problems with attitude, motivation and low skill levels. Improved access to vocational ICT training and improved familiarity with new technologies were highlighted as areas to be developed.

Young people from the Neighbourhood Renewal Area form a significant part of the 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET) group. This includes a number of juvenile offenders. This group is in need of specific targeting from advice and support initiatives.

Objectives :

- To raise the achievement of all Neighbourhood Renewal Area pupils, students and learners to meet the relevant standards and targets.
- To improve the attainment of looked after children, children with special needs and disabilities, children in foster placements and those regarded as NEET by providing targeted support.
- To improve the skill levels of Neighbourhood Renewal Area residents of all ages, including literacy, numeracy and Information Communication Technology (ICT).
- Develop the skills, qualifications and adaptability of Neighbourhood Renewal Area residents, in order to better meet the needs of the labour market.
- To improve access to training including informal education and activities within neighbourhoods.

Health and Care

Introduction

The health of Hartlepool residents is improving; on average they are living healthier and longer lives. However, they still suffer from more ill health and disability, higher death rates from diseases such as cancer, heart disease and respiratory disease and live shorter lives than in most other parts of the country. There is evidence to indicate that this 'health gap' is widening. There are also inequalities in the 'health experience' of communities within Hartlepool; the most deprived communities suffering significantly poorer health than the more affluent areas.

It is recognised that there are many factors that influence the health of our population including the lifestyle choices that individuals make, the environment within which they live and work, the quality of their housing, their income and their level of educational achievement.

A number of key strategies are in place to deliver services including the Hartlepool Vision for Care, Children and Young People's Plan, Public Health Strategy, Older People's Strategy and the Mental Health Social Inclusion Strategy.

Aim

Work in partnership with the people of Hartlepool to promote and ensure the best possible health and wellbeing.

Objectives

Easier access to services and increased choice

- To work together to provide high quality, convenient, accessible and co-ordinated services when people need them.
- To ensure people are in control of decisions relating to their own health and wellbeing and can get the support and care they require when they need it
- To provide real choice for people, so that they can make decisions about their own care and support.
- To value the work that carers do, promote carer awareness and social inclusion and improve the identification, range of support and training for carers

Improved Health

- To support the people of Hartlepool in choosing a healthy lifestyle.
- To reduce early death and ill health caused by heart disease, strokes and cancers.
- To reduce drug, alcohol abuse and smoking and to enable people with related problems to overcome them.
- To strengthen and support communities with specific needs to improve their health, well-being and social inclusion.

Improved mental health and wellbeing

- To promote mental wellbeing, reduce suicide rates and support people with mental health problems.

Children and Young People's Plan

Be Healthy

Our vision for this outcome in Hartlepool is that children and young people will be physically, mentally, emotionally and sexually healthy, lead healthy lifestyles and choose not to take illegal drugs.

Objectives:

- Ensure that health inequalities are reduced by improving the targeting of vulnerable infants, children and young people.
- Improve sexual health and ensure that the conception rates for teenagers continue to reduce.
- Promote healthy lifestyles by initiatives such as the National Healthy Schools Award.

7.1 APPENDIX 1

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Key Issues:

Although health in Hartlepool is generally improving residents from the Neighbourhood Renewal Area still have a higher mortality rate for cancer than the rest of Hartlepool.

Standardised Mortality Rates for heart disease, stroke and respiratory disease are also much higher than the national average. In part this is due to the high levels of smoking within the area with over 50% of the population in Dyke House/Stranton/Grange and Owton smoking. This is significantly higher than the national average.

Within the Tees Valley Hartlepool has the highest number of residents accessing drug treatment services and the majority of drug related litter collected in Hartlepool comes from the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

Participation in physical activity and sport is lowest in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area despite the variety of recreational facilities within the neighbourhoods. With obesity emerging as a national concern local monitoring has recently begun with school age children. It is recognised that obesity is a developing issue for the area.

Teenage pregnancy remains a concern within the area and although much progress has been made in recent years the rate of conceptions in those under 18 years of age is still above the Hartlepool, regional and national averages. The diagnosis of sexual transmitted infections has also increased greatly.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Area has a significantly higher rate of people incapable of work than Hartlepool and other Boroughs within the Tees Valley. The proportion of residents with a limiting long-term illness is highest in the Burbank and Rift House/Burn Valley neighbourhoods. In addition the proportion of people in the area experiencing mental health problems is also above the Hartlepool rate.

The percentage of people in need of personal care is slightly higher in the area when compared to the rest of Hartlepool. The percentage in the Burbank neighbourhood is almost double the Hartlepool rate as the neighbourhood is home to a large elderly population.

Objectives:

- To protect and improve health and increase life expectancy by reducing health inequalities in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.
- To encourage residents to adopt active and healthy lifestyles by promoting the benefits of regular exercise and working in partnership to provide additional support in local communities to increase participation in sport and physical activity.
- To reduce smoking, alcohol, drugs and solvent abuse in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area especially amongst young people.

7.1 APPENDIX 1

- To target neighbourhoods with screening and support services for heart disease, strokes and cancers.
- To improve the health, emotional development and well-being of all children, young people, and their families within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.
- To focus resources on neighbourhoods to reduce the rate of teenage conceptions and improve sexual health.
- To improve mental wellbeing, raise awareness, reduce isolation, challenge discrimination and promote opportunities for people with mental health problems in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

Community Safety

Introduction

Community Safety is one of the highest community priorities. Whilst there have been recent improvements in reducing crimes such as domestic burglary and vehicle crime, reducing fear of crime and the need for public reassurance remains a clear priority. A strong partnership approach has underpinned improvements with key partners working hard to ensure their service delivery does everything it can to contribute to improved Community Safety.

The introduction of Neighbourhood Policing has revolutionised the way in which police operate providing officers who are known by name and readily accessible to the communities they serve. A partnership approach ensures that the issues that matter most to people are tackled at the times they are needed.

The crime and disorder problems are associated with the socio-economic factors of the population such as high unemployment and low educational attainment. Crime and disorder is greater in the NRS neighbourhood due to socio-economic factors and the town centre that acts as a magnet for business crime, vehicle crime and alcohol related disorder.

Aim

Make Hartlepool a safer place by reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, and tackling drugs and alcohol misuse.

Objectives

Reduced Crime

1. To reduce acquisitive crime (burglary and theft) with particular focus on high crime areas.
2. To reduce alcohol related social nuisance, disorder and violence associated with the night-time economy.
3. To reduce incidents of victimisation, in particular repeat incidents associated with domestic violence and improve joint working between services.
4. To ensure that community safety is considered in all decision making and service delivery of public bodies.

Reduced harm caused by illegal drugs and alcohol

5. To tackle drugs misuse with treatment programmes which encourage harm minimisation, rigorous enforcement and education and awareness programmes.
6. To develop local services for those who misuse alcohol.
7. To tackle under-age drinking by education and enforcement.

Improved neighbourhood safety and increased public confidence leading to reduced fear of crime and anti-social behaviour

8. To reduce deliberate fires.
9. To involve local communities in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour and the causes of crime and anti-social behaviour.
10. To introduce measures to promote reassurance and improve public confidence in all sections of the community.

Reduced anti-social and criminal behaviour through improved prevention and enforcement activities

11. To reduce anti-social behaviour across the town, with particular focus on 'hot-spot' areas.
12. To prevent and reduce offending and re-offending.
13. To work with young people and their parents/guardians and families to prevent youth offending.

Children and Young People's Plan

Stay Safe

Our vision for this outcome in Hartlepool is that children and young people will live, grow and learn in safety, where parents, carers and all adults take responsibility for their safety and well being and they are free from harm, discrimination, harassment and exploitation.

Objectives:

- Ensure that children and young people are provided with a safe environment by activities such as staff training and the development of partnership working to address bullying.
- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of child protection services.
- Ensure that where children need to be looked after, they are placed in family settings and changes in placements are minimised.

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Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Key Issues:

Crime has reduced in recent years but the overall crime rate in Hartlepool is still above the national rate. The number of domestic burglaries has fallen dramatically but the proportion taking place within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area has remained fairly static.

The proportion of incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour reported to the Police has remained around 70% with many incidents being alcohol related including under-age drinking. Within the area there are increasing numbers of properties which are privately rented. The behaviour of some tenants within those properties is causing increasing concern.

Within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area the proportion of people who feel safe walking alone at night in their local area is lower than the Hartlepool average. Residents in Dyke House/Stranton/Grange, NDC and Owton feel the most unsafe.

Drug dealing has been identified as a serious problem by residents throughout the neighbourhoods but has been particularly highlighted in the NDC, Dyke House/Stranton/Grange and Owton neighbourhoods. The majority of drug related litter collected comes from the area with the Stranton and Owton wards being responsible for the highest pick-ups.

The number of deliberate fires within the Borough is high and the proportion of those occurring within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area has remained the same since 2004.

Incidents of local violence (common assault and wounding) in Hartlepool have risen with the proportion of those in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area also rising. This includes town centre incidents of alcohol related violence and domestic violence.

Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property has been identified as a serious problem in the Dyke House/Stranton/Grange, NDC and Owton neighbourhoods. Criminal damage in Hartlepool has increased since 2004.

As the Neighbourhood Renewal Area encompasses the town centre there is a significant problem with crime against businesses including shop theft.

Objectives:

- To maintain and where practicable increase the visibility of uniform presence within neighbourhoods.
- To work with young people from the Neighbourhood Renewal Area and their parents/guardians and families to prevent youth offending and in particular anti-social behaviour.
- To provide an increased range of accessible diversionary activities and facilities for young people within local neighbourhoods.
- To reduce anti-social behaviour in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area, with particular emphasis on behaviour associated with alcohol consumption generally and more specifically underage drinking.

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- To develop further target-hardening and victim support measures in neighbourhoods to increase the security of homes and businesses, with particular emphasis on repeat victims.
- To improve communications with residents in order to increase the level of intelligence received and to ensure feedback on actions undertaken.
- To tackle the problem of drug misuse, particularly in respect of the under 30-age group, by education, enforcement and a harm reduction programme.
- To target those who deal in and supply illegal drugs in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.
- To tackle environmental issues such as vandalism, graffiti and fly-tipping to improve the general appearance of neighbourhoods.

Environment

Introduction

Environment and transport make important contributions to complex quality of life issues. The environment affects both quality of life and the perception of the neighbourhood as a place to live and invest in. The impact of the environment on underlying deprivation causes is hard to analyse and control but is often high on community agendas.

Access to open spaces with play and sports facilities, quiet areas, and high biodiversity value is an important aspect of achieving a sustainable community. Conversely the impacts of pollution, energy efficiency and waste management can have particular adverse impacts on the quality of life.

Hartlepool's transport system is pivotal to the town's economic success and the quality of life of its residents. Delivering an effective and efficient transport system makes social, economic and environmental sense allowing employees to travel and business to flourish whilst reducing the harmful effects of transport on the natural environment and ensuring a good quality of life for groups without regular access to a car.

As more residents look outside of their local area to work, shop and play, there has been an accompanying decline in local facilities. Poor transport provision can act as a barrier to the take up of employment, training and education opportunities, the ability of younger people and older people to access services and the provision of accessible health care facilities

Aim:

Secure and enhance an attractive environment that is clean, green and safe, managed to enhance biodiversity, and is readily accessible and valued by the community.

Objectives

Natural Environment

1. To protect and enhance the natural environment and its biodiversity, including sensitive and appropriate development of urban and brown field sites.
2. To protect and enhance the quality of watercourses, open water and coastal waters and their margins and minimise the risk of flooding to people, property and buildings from the sea, rivers and sewers.
3. To increase awareness and understanding of the natural environment.
4. To improve equality of access to high quality local environments where public and community open spaces are clean, green and safe.
5. To make better use of natural resources, reduce the generation of waste, and maximise recycling.
6. To minimise all forms of pollution.

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Built Environment

7. To enhance the built environment & transport corridors and promote good urban design, and sustainable construction, while conserving areas of townscape, coast and assets with archaeological, architectural or historic significance.
8. To ensure that the built environment is responsive to long-term climate change impacts through the effective design, location and adaptation of buildings.
9. To record, enhance and raise awareness of the towns' heritage and ensure it is safeguarded for future generations.

Transportation

10. To promote social inclusion by ensuring that everyone can access the key services and facilities that they need.
11. To improve the overall safety and security of the transport system for everyone.
12. To ensure that traffic congestion does not hinder continued economic growth and regeneration.
13. To minimise the adverse impacts of transport on air quality and climate change.

Global Environment

14. To prepare for the impacts of and secure local and global action to tackle Climate Change.
15. To reduce and adapt to the effects of climate change by minimising energy use and by increasing the use of alternative and renewable energy sources.
16. To promote community involvement in positive action to reduce world poverty through fair-trade, promoting peace and security.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Key Issues:

In general residents within Hartlepool are satisfied with their local area as a place to live. However, satisfaction is lower in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area with the lowest satisfaction in the Dyke House/Stranton/Grange and NDC neighbourhoods. The proportion of residents that see litter and rubbish as a problem in their area is also significantly higher in the Dyke House/Stranton/Grange neighbourhood.

Positive end uses for vacant buildings and land are encouraged through the Local Plan and various regeneration schemes. Priority issues vary between neighbourhoods with vacant buildings being a particular problem in the Headland area of North Hartlepool. Vacant land can be managed for biodiversity value where appropriate until another use can be identified.

Poor transport provision can often act as a barrier to economic and social inclusion and the high cost of fares can act as a further barrier to its use. Those who do not have access to a car often rely on lifts or taxis because of the inadequacy of public transport services. Satisfaction with public transport is lower in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area than in the rest of Hartlepool. Poor public transport has been identified as a serious problem in the Rift House/Burn Valley neighbourhood.

Accidents at junctions and on roads in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area need to be reduced. The speed and volume of road traffic is classified as a more serious problem in the NDC, Owton and Dyke House/Stranton/Grange neighbourhoods.

Objectives:

- To increase satisfaction in local neighbourhoods by improving the management of litter, rubbish and vacant land and buildings and increasing the environmental quality of all public open spaces.
- To work with local voluntary and community groups to develop local initiatives which will identify ways of improving the quality of the local environment and access to public open spaces.
- To find new uses for redundant buildings in NRS neighbourhoods through the use of grant aid from regeneration schemes and the use of positive planning.
- To reduce the amount of derelict land within the NRS neighbourhoods by using it for appropriate development or quality amenity areas
- To ensure that neighbourhoods have access to a safe and effective transport system with public transport services provided throughout the week.
- To provide safe and convenient access for pedestrians and cyclists in neighbourhoods, particularly to improve access to employment and facilities.
- To reduce accidents at the most dangerous junctions and roads in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area and improve road safety awareness.

Housing

Introduction

Balancing the supply and demand of housing to meet the aspirations of the population is a key strand of the Housing Strategy for Hartlepool and tackling existing and future problems in the private sector is the key housing regeneration challenge for the town. With changing housing markets there is significantly increased demand for social housing. The rising costs of renting privately is affecting affordability as rents rise above housing benefit levels.

New housing completions remain high and housing costs remain lower than average for the region, particularly for terraced dwellings.

Housing that does not meet recognised decency standards and problems associated with management of private rented properties can often be a root cause of disadvantage.

There is increasing need for support and appropriate housing for vulnerable people and with an increasingly elderly population there is increased need for a range of accommodation including extra care.

Aim

Ensure that there is access to good quality and affordable housing in sustainable neighbourhoods and communities where people want to live.

Objectives

Balancing Housing Supply and Demand

1. To ensure that there is access to a choice of good quality housing in sustainable communities across tenures to meet the aspirations of residents and to encourage investment.
2. To secure adequate provision of new housing and maximise the proportion that is built on previously developed land; while seeking to secure an improved mix in the size, type, ownership and location of housing, including the development of sufficient housing at an affordable level and appropriate provision of larger, higher value, low density dwellings.
3. To achieve a better balance between housing demand and supply.
4. To enhance the standard of management of social and private rented housing.

Improving the quality of existing housing

5. To encourage improvements to homes to meet and exceed 'decent homes standards'.

Meeting the Housing Needs of Vulnerable People

6. To increase the opportunities and to encourage residents to live independently in the community as appropriate.
7. To provide accommodation and support for vulnerable people to live independently.

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Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Key Issues:

Hartlepool has become affected by low and changing demand in the Housing Market. There is an over supply of smaller, older, terraced properties which is evidenced by concentrations of vacancy and abandonment. Much of this poorer housing is concentrated in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area which is why many neighbourhoods will be included within the Housing Market Renewal programme. The Housing Market Renewal programme will see large parts of the area demolished and replaced with new homes and other environmental and social projects.

In recent years there has also been a rapid growth in the private rented sector within Hartlepool and there are concerns regarding the impact of poor management which is resulting in increased incidents of anti-social behaviour.

There is a need to balance communities in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area by encouraging a greater mix of housing types. There is a need to continue the selective removal of properties in low demand areas.

There are problems with vacant dwellings in the neighbourhoods. The majority of vacant dwellings are within the private rented sector with the vacancy rate being well above that expected within an ordinarily functioning private sector housing market. The void rate in the Registered Social Landlord (RSL) sector is minimal which reflects the high demand for social rented properties within the Borough.

Satisfaction with accommodation is high in Hartlepool although it is slightly lower in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area. The Burbank neighbourhood has the lowest satisfaction level. Work is ongoing within Hartlepool to bring all social housing up to the Government's Decent Homes Standard by 2010. Once this has been completed satisfaction with accommodation should increase.

The area is home to a greater proportion of vulnerable households. It is important that the housing needs of vulnerable people continue to be met by assisting them to live safely in their own homes, offering a choice of suitable accommodation, reducing fuel poverty and preventing homelessness.

Objectives:

- To seek to balance supply and demand for housing in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area by reducing the number of vacant dwellings, ensuring housing is of the right size and tenure and is built within sustainable locations.
- To ensure housing regeneration activity in neighbourhoods is successful and secures follow on investment.
- To implement selective licensing in areas with low demand or anti-social behaviour.
- To achieve the Government's Decent Homes targets for social housing and private housing occupied by vulnerable groups.
- To address the issues of fuel poverty in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

Culture and Leisure

Introduction

Hartlepool's current rejuvenation has been dramatic, changing the face of the town and attracting increasing regional attention. It is important that this continues, to create a sustainable economy and further enhance our growing reputation as a town with a distinct identity within the region.

Plans for Hartlepool Quays include the provision of a multi-million pound water sports centre on Victoria Harbour, housed within an iconic maritime-theme building, set within landscaped parkland. The selection of Hartlepool as the final host port for the Tall Ships' Race in 2010 creates the potential to raise the profile of Hartlepool and Coastal Arc not only as a visitor attraction but also as an investment location.

Culture and Leisure are key elements to successful regeneration. Associated activities can provide a positive local identity, help to develop individual pride and confidence in neighbourhoods and deliver a vibrant voluntary and community sector. Culture & Leisure complements lifelong learning and training and resulting increases in community spirit and capacity can make a valuable contribution to delivering key outcomes in other theme areas. It can provide diversionary activities that reduce antisocial behaviour and crime.

The contribution of Culture and Leisure activities to improved health and care are significant; sport & physical activity are vital to social, economic and personal development and contribute to improved quality of life.

Aim

Create a cultural identity for Hartlepool which attracts people to Hartlepool and makes us proud to live and work here.

Objectives

Enrich individual lives, strengthen communities and improve places where people live through enjoyment of leisure, culture and sport

1. To create a strong cultural identity for Hartlepool within the region.
2. To celebrate Hartlepool and express that local identity.
3. To develop a sustainable cultural economy and build on existing tourism attractions.
4. Advocate the value of culture in meeting the expressed needs and aspirations of the community.

Cultural and Leisure services better meet the needs of the community, especially those from disadvantaged areas.

5. Increase participation, opportunity for access and diversity.

Children and Young People's Plan

Enjoy and Achieve

Our vision for this outcome in Hartlepool is that children and young people, especially those who are vulnerable, develop personally and socially, and that they safely enjoy recreation and leisure time away from school.

Objectives:

- Ensure all children and young people can access a range of recreational activities including play and voluntary learning.
- Work with the voluntary sector and other agencies to improve the range and quality of recreational learning opportunities for children and young people.

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Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Key Issues:

Barriers to participation in culture and leisure opportunities are strongly linked to poverty and disadvantage. Library visitor numbers have fallen in recent years mirroring the national trend linked to changing culture and lifestyles. Although satisfaction with library services is generally high it is significantly lower in the North Hartlepool neighbourhood.

Low usage of youth and community centres is linked to affordability and accessibility. Also, consultation with young people highlights a lack of informal meeting places, lack of organised activities and the poor state of existing facilities. Satisfaction with youth and community centres is low in the Burbank and Dyke House/Stranton/Grange neighbourhoods.

Satisfaction with open spaces in Hartlepool is higher than in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area. Satisfaction with public parks/open spaces is lowest in Burbank and Dyke House/Stranton Grange neighbourhoods. Satisfaction with play areas is also lowest in the Burbank neighbourhood.

There have been recent improvements in the proportion of overall leisure centre attendances from people living within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area. Some existing facilities do not have a universal appeal to the whole community with disadvantaged groups including the unemployed and disabled being significantly underrepresented. Satisfaction with sport clubs/facilities is again lowest in the Burbank neighbourhood.

There is a need to increase the usage of arts, museums and cultural events by residents from the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

Objectives:

- To target pro-active arts and sport development within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area in conjunction with concessionary schemes to facilitate access.
- To encourage partnership working with local schools and adult education, libraries, community sports facilities and arts development to increase use of community facilities in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.
- To develop youth provision, meeting places and outreach work in neighbourhoods.
- To protect and enhance children's play facilities, open space and parks in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.
- To build on good practice by engaging the community in cultural and leisure projects that encourage lifelong learning, creative activity, positive cultural identity and support a sense of ownership in the neighbourhoods.

Strengthening Communities

Introduction

Hartlepool has a strong and vibrant Community and Voluntary Sector. There are a large number of community and voluntary sector groups in the town and a number of new residents associations have been formed through the development of the New Deal for Communities programme, Hartlepool Community Network and other capacity building initiatives and the development of NAFs. Community consultation and involvement in setting priorities and planning delivery has strengthened in recent years and regulatory frameworks, including the Local Development Framework's Statement of Community Involvement and the COMPACT have provided a focus for this activity.

Strengthening and valuing communities is at the heart of Neighbourhood Renewal. Empowering individuals and groups and increasing the involvement of citizens in all decisions that affect their lives is fundamental to the process of reducing the gaps between the conditions in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area and Borough and national averages.

Aim

Empower individuals, groups and communities, and increase the involvement of citizens in all decisions that affect their lives.

Objectives

Empowered local people with greater influence

1. To enhance the democratic process by using existing structures more effectively and increase understanding and involvement in the democratic process.
2. To empower local people to take a greater role in the determining, planning and delivery of services and strategies that affect their individual lives, their local neighbourhood and the wider community.
3. To increase opportunities for everyone to participate in consultation, especially "hard to reach" groups and those communities affected.
4. To ensure that appropriate feedback is given to individuals and communities when they have been involved in consultation or decision making processes.
5. To improve the accessibility of services and information ensuring that providers address the varied needs and requirements of the whole community.

A thriving voluntary and community sector

6. To fully value the voluntary and community sector and to support them to secure their long-term future through contracted service delivery, promoting volunteering and the agreement of longer term funding settlements.

Increased Community Cohesion

7. To ensure Hartlepool is a cohesive community where there is a sense of belonging for all and where people of different backgrounds, circumstances and generations are able to get along free from discrimination and harassment.

Children and Young People's Plan

Make a Positive Contribution

Our vision for this outcome is to provide all children and young people who live in Hartlepool with the opportunity to participate fully in the life of their community. We will work with children, young people and their families to ensure that they are central to our planning and that, through their involvement, we meet the national and local priorities set out in the Children and Young People's Plan.

Objectives:

- Develop clear links between participation processes for children and young people, service providers, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and the local political process.
- Continue to divert children and young people away from anti-social behaviour and crime, through further development of preventative services.
- Ensure that all children and young people have access to services that support the development of self-confidence, self-worth and emotional resilience that enables them to face significant life changes and challenges with appropriate support.
- Further develop the process for involving children in the planning and review of services designed to meet their needs. In particular we will ensure that Looked After Children and those with disabilities are fully involved in planning for their future

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Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Key Issues:

A significant number of people feel that there is little community spirit in their neighbourhood, especially in areas which have a largely transient population. The Burbank neighbourhood has a low number of people who would say that there is a lot of community spirit in their area. Feelings of involvement in the local community are also relatively low. This is demonstrated by low turnout rates at general and local elections and low levels of formal volunteering. Residents in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area are less likely to feel part of their community than those in the rest of the town. People living in the Rift House/Burn Valley, Rossmere and Burbank neighbourhoods are least likely to feel part of the community.

Despite a well-developed voluntary and community sector in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area some groups face ongoing difficulties in maintaining their services to the community. The introduction of Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs) has increased resident involvement but there is still progress to be made in developing further active resident associations.

The active role of local communities in improving their area is an underlying principle of Neighbourhood Renewal. This includes being involved in making the decisions that affect their area. However, despite significant progress in this area of work fewer residents within the North Hartlepool neighbourhood believe they can influence decisions that affect their area than in the rest of the Neighbourhood Renewal Area and the Borough.

More needs to be done to improve access to information and also the communication between residents and service

providers with a particular focus on special needs groups, people on low incomes and those groups regarded as hard to reach.

Objectives:

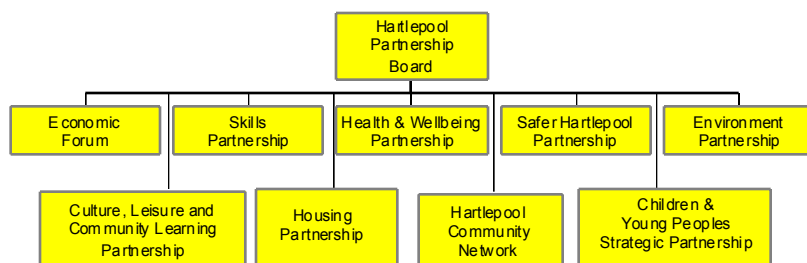
- To identify barriers to engagement within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area including those related to income deprivation, special needs and hard to reach groups.
- To develop and support residents associations across the neighbourhoods to enable local people to make their views and aspirations known.
- To develop networks and structures from the neighbourhood level to feed into strategic partnerships/policy makers to give a voice to specific communities of interest.
- To provide community development and capacity building support in key areas of need including targeted support for hard to reach and special needs groups.
- To ensure effective communications and access to information through networks and structures both to and from residents.
- To support community and voluntary sector groups who provide vital support within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

Implementing the Community Strategy

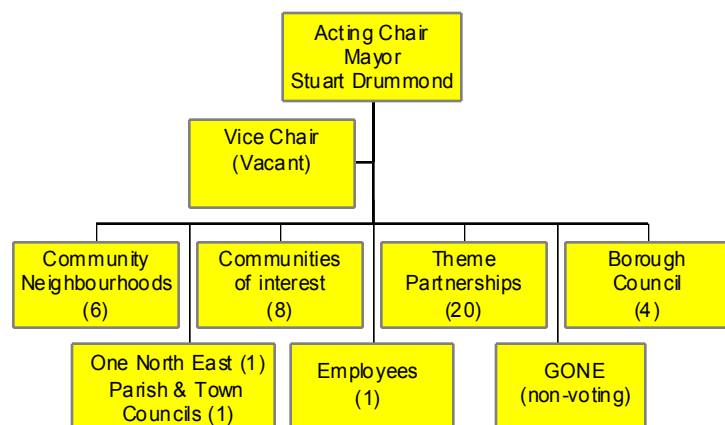
The implementation of the Community Strategy and the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy will be overseen by the Hartlepool Partnership and will be dependent on the concerted actions of a range of agencies, organisations and individuals across the public, private, community and voluntary sectors.

The Hartlepool Partnership

The Partnership is made up of a Board and a series of Theme Partnerships.



The Hartlepool Partnership Board has a Chair and 42 members.



The role of the Board is to provide strategic co-ordination and agree policy on major issues of strategic importance to Hartlepool.

The Policy Framework

The Community Strategy is underpinned by a series of Strategies that make up the Hartlepool Partnership's Policy Framework:

- Local Area Agreement
- The Local Development Framework Core Strategy (in early preparation)
- Economic Forum Protocol (2005)
- Children & Young People's Plan (2006-2009)
- Skills Strategy (in early preparation)
- Vision for Care (2003)
- Public Health Strategy (2006-2010)
- Crime, Disorder and Drugs Strategy (2005-2008)
- Housing Strategy (2006-2011)
- Local Transport Plan (2006-2008)
- Culture Strategy (2003-2008)
- Older People's Strategy (2004)
- Climate Change Strategy (2007 – 2012)
- COMPACT (in early preparation)
- Hartlepool Partnership and Hartlepool Community Network Protocol (October 2005)
- Voluntary Sector Strategy (in early preparation)

These strategies will be adopted by the Hartlepool Partnership Board and by partner organisations, many of whom share statutory responsibilities for their production and delivery. Once the strategies are in place, Theme Partnerships oversee their implementation.

Theme Partnerships

Theme Partnerships are responsible for the delivery of the Community Strategy's Vision, Aims and Objectives, ensuring that these feed directly into the content of more detailed specialist plans. Co-ordination and alignment of plans and programmes is one of the main ways in which the Community Strategy will be implemented.

Through an agreed performance management framework, the Local Area Agreement, the Board holds Theme Partnerships accountable for delivery.

Hartlepool's Local Area Agreement

Hartlepool's first Local Area Agreement was signed in March 2006 and includes 36 outcomes structured around the Community Strategy Themes. Local Area Agreements translate the long term vision of the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy into three year outcomes; establishing priorities for action and indicators to monitor progress. The Agreement is signed by the Hartlepool Partnership, Hartlepool Borough Council and Central Government.

The Hartlepool Partnership Board agrees annual Delivery and Improvement Plans prepared by Theme Partnerships. Performance against this Plan is reviewed quarterly. The Local Area Agreement provides a robust performance management framework to deliver Hartlepool's Ambition and improve quality of life across Hartlepool and within its most disadvantaged communities.

Holding each other to account

Successful implementation of the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy relies on strong internal accountability between partners and good external accountability to local residents and service users. This can be summarised:

- Giving an account
- Being held to account
- Taking account
- Redress

Giving an account

Theme Partnerships will prepare quarterly performance reports that paint a clear picture of performance trends. These will be published on the Partnership's Website.

Being held to account

In addition to its own accountability arrangements, the Partnership's performance is reviewed by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), the Government Office for the North East, and Hartlepool Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny committees.

Taking account

The Partnership will ensure a strong evidence base drives the implementation of the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. Neighbourhood Action Plan delivery will expressly seek the views of local people and organisations.

Redress

The Partnership will work to ensure that where there are complaints or expressions of dissatisfaction, however made, about the standards of service, actions or lack of action by the Partnership affecting an individual or group that it works quickly and effectively to address the issues.

Implementing the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

Introduction

In 2001 central government published 'A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal – National Strategy Action Plan'. This established a vision that 'within 10-20 years no-one should be seriously disadvantaged by where they live'. The Plan set out a requirement for areas, like Hartlepool, who had neighbourhoods within the 10% most deprived nationally to develop a Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy which identified their priority neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies were to provide a broad policy framework for improving deprived neighbourhoods over a 10-year period, narrowing the gap between those areas and the rest of the country. The aim of Neighbourhood Renewal is to reduce inequalities in the most disadvantaged communities and to help tackle social and economic exclusion by lowering worklessness and crime and improving health, skills, housing and the physical environment.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) was introduced to help implement Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies but in order to achieve long-term change, focus was placed on improved coordination of services within neighbourhoods, better use of existing mainstream resources and community empowerment.

In 2007, Hartlepool was ranked as the 23rd most disadvantaged area in the country.

Hartlepool's most disadvantaged neighbourhoods the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy area

Hartlepool's 2002 Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy used the government's Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000 to establish seven priority neighbourhoods:

- Burbank
- Dyke House/Stranton/Grange
- Hartlepool NDC
- North Hartlepool (Central Estate, Headland & West View/King Oswy)
- Owton
- Rift House/Burn Valley
- Rossmere

Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs), setting out key local priorities, have been prepared for these neighbourhoods. Together the NAPs form the geographical element of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and are used to inform and improve local service delivery.

The 2007 Index of Deprivation shows that some areas within the priority neighbourhoods identified in 2002 are no longer in the 10% most disadvantaged. However, because the way in which the Government calculates the index has changed significantly since 2000 and the long term vision of Hartlepool's 2002 Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, those areas previously identified as a priority will remain so in this 2008 Strategy.

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One significant addition to the 2008 list of priority neighbourhoods is the inclusion of Throston Grange, bringing the total number of priority neighbourhoods to eight. Although the 2007 Index of Deprivation does not place Throston in the bottom 10% overall, in the key areas of Employment and Health, Deprivation & Disability it is within the bottom 10% nationally. These areas are key priorities for the Hartlepool Partnership and as a result, it is considered appropriate to include Throston Grange in the list of priority neighbourhoods. This addition will result in 55% of the Hartlepool's population living in priority neighbourhoods – a slight increase from 54% in the previous Strategy.

Detailed analysis of the 2007 Index of Deprivation together with feedback from the first five years of Neighbourhood Action Planning, has resulted in the inclusion of a small number of streets to existing priority neighbourhoods to reflect more natural communities.

Details of these revisions can be found in a separate report, *The Renewal of Hartlepool's Neighbourhoods*, on the Partnership's website by clicking on the Neighbourhood Renewal logo on the homepage.

Mainstreaming

Nationally and locally increasing importance is being placed on 'mainstreaming' as a means of implementing Community Strategies and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies. In response to this the Hartlepool Partnership undertook a review of 'mainstreaming' within the Borough in 2005. There are many different interpretations of mainstreaming, however for the purpose of the review, the Partnership defined mainstreaming to include:

- Re-directing resources/budgets into those areas regarded as deprived;
- Making deprived areas the focus for policy;
- Reshaping services to reflect local needs;
- Joining together services, programmes and targets to reduce duplication and contradiction;
- Learning from good practice examples and using pilots as a means to inform future policy decisions.

Details of this review can be found in a separate report on the Partnership's website by clicking on the Neighbourhood Renewal logo on the homepage.

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Neighbourhood Profiles:

Burbank

The Burbank neighbourhood is situated to the southeast of Hartlepool Town Centre, in the Stranton Ward. At the core of the neighbourhood is a small community which is bordered by Burbank Street to the south, Hucklehoven Way to the north, Mainsforth Terrace to the east and Clark Street to the west. This core is surrounded by industrial and commercial areas which make the neighbourhood fairly isolated. The neighbourhood also encompasses some residential properties in Church Street and the Marina.

Dyke House/Stranton/Grange

The Dyke House/Stranton/Grange neighbourhood is situated to the north of the Town Centre, and covers the Dyke House ward, a small part of the Stranton ward and the northwestern corner of the Grange ward. The neighbourhood is bordered by the NDC neighbourhood at its southern edge and by the Grayfields Recreational Ground at its western edge. This neighbourhood has been identified within the Housing Market Renewal programme and as such a number of terraced properties will be demolished and replaced with new homes.

Hartlepool NDC

The New Deal for Communities (NDC) neighbourhood covers Hartlepool town centre from Belle Vue in the South to Hart Lane in the North. The neighbourhood is part of the Government's NDC programme, which enables the area to access £54m extra of Government funding over a 10-year period. The boundary was drawn to meet the Government's criteria of NDC areas being no greater than 4,000 households and 10,000 residents. The neighbourhood includes key recreational facilities such as the Burn Valley Gardens, Mill House Sports Centre, Hartlepool United Football Club and the North Cemetery. The neighbourhood is also home to the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre and the Longhill and Sandgate industrial estates. Parts of the NDC neighbourhood have been identified within the Housing Market Renewal programme and as such a number of properties will be demolished and replaced with new homes.

North Hartlepool

The North Hartlepool neighbourhood is situated to the far northeast of the town and covers the Brus and St Hilda wards. The neighbourhood is split into three areas, which are well known to the community and service providers who work in the NAP area. These areas are the Headland, Central Estate and West View/King Oswy. A recently completed Single Regeneration Budget programme has seen significant investment in parts of this neighbourhood over the last few years.

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Owton

The Owton neighbourhood lies to the south west of the Borough and is bounded to the north by Brierton Lane, to the West by the Owton ward boundary and to the east by Catcote Road. The southern boundary takes in both the 'I' and 'M' blocks and Manor College of Technology. At the heart of the neighbourhood is a green corridor of open space.

Rift House/Burn Valley

The Rift House/Burn Valley neighbourhood is situated to the south west of the Town Centre and covers the majority of the Rift House ward (excluding Swalebrooke, Tynebrooke, Teesbrooke and Southbrooke Avenues) and a small part of the Burn Valley ward covering streets between Stockton Road and Shakespeare Avenue, and Oxford Road to Elwick Road. The neighbourhood is adjacent to the Burn Valley Gardens, Waverley Terrace Allotments and the Rift House Recreational Ground.

Rossmere

The Rossmere neighbourhood is located to the south of the Borough and covers the Rossmere ward and a small part of the Fens ward. The neighbourhood is bounded by Catcote Road to the West, Brierton Lane and Belle Vue Way to the North, Brenda Road to the East and Torquay Avenue to the South. The neighbourhood includes Rossmere Park and the Queens Meadow business park.

Throston Grange

The Throston Grange neighbourhood is located in the north of the town. The neighbourhood is encircled by Throston Grange Lane and Wiltshire Way and extends to the west to include St. Davids Walk and Caernarvon Grove. The neighbourhood is adjacent to the Grayfields Recreational Ground.

A snapshot of neighbourhood statistics has been produced separately and is available from www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk by clicking on the Neighbourhood Renewal link on the homepage.

Sustainable Development

In working to achieve the Community Strategy Vision, it is important to be aware of the Strategy's broader impact on the local area. These wider aspects of a strategy's implementation can often be grouped into social, environmental and economic effects. This style of plan making, balancing social, environmental and economic effects, ensures sustainable development.

Sustainable Development is about delivering a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. A widely used international definition is that it is "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

In 2000 Hartlepool Borough Council produced its first Sustainable Development Strategy. Current Government Guidance recommends that Community Strategies should be developed into Sustainable Community Strategies. This revised Community Strategy reaffirms Sustainable Development as one of the nine principles that govern the Strategy's implementation and as a result, a separate sustainable development strategy is no longer required.

The Community Strategy sets a framework for the development of sustainable communities, the components of which can be defined as follows:

- **Governance:** Effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership
- **Transport and connectivity:** Good transport services and communication linking people to jobs, schools, health and other services
- **Services:** A full range of appropriate, accessible public, private, and community and voluntary services
- **Environmental:** Providing places for people to live in an environmentally friendly way
- **Economy:** A flourishing and diverse local economy
- **Housing and the built environment:** A quality built and natural environment
- **Social and cultural:** Vibrant, harmonious and inclusive communities

Source: Egan Review of Skills for Sustainable Communities

Sustainability Appraisal

A test of any strategy to ensure it contributes to achieving sustainable development is often referred to as a Sustainability Appraisal. The aim of a Sustainability Appraisal is to strengthen the contribution the Community Strategy makes to the sustainable development of Hartlepool. You can read more about the outcomes of the Sustainability Appraisal in a separate report, available on the Hartlepool Partnership Website, by clicking on the Community Strategy link on the homepage.

Footprints

As well as assessing the Community Strategy before it is adopted it is important to be able to measure the Strategy's progress to delivering Sustainable Development as it is being implemented. One way of doing this is by measuring the "footprint" the delivered Strategy creates.

Two footprint measures are often considered: the amount of land we need to sustain our lifestyle – an *Ecological Footprint* or the amount of Carbon Dioxide that our lifestyle emits – a *Carbon Footprint*.

The Ecological Footprint calculates how much land and sea is needed to provide the resources, such as energy, water and raw materials, we use in our everyday lives. It also calculates the emissions generated from the oil, coal and gas we burn, and it determines how much land is required to absorb our waste.

Hartlepool currently has a relatively low Ecological Footprint compared to the rest of the UK, but this is still over twice the size of the world average. If *Hartlepool's Ambition* is delivered in a sustainable way we can stabilise our Ecological Footprint in the medium term and reduce it gradually over time.

You can read more about *footprints* in a separate report, *A Low Footprint Future*, available on the Hartlepool Partnership Website by clicking on the Community Strategy link on the homepage.

Climate Change

Climate change is a serious problem that affects us all. There is strong evidence that human emissions of greenhouse gases are changing the world's climate. The main greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide (CO₂), produced when we burn fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas for energy.

Over 40 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions in Hartlepool come directly from what we do as individuals; heating and using electricity in our homes - and driving vehicles. A *carbon footprint* is a measure of how much carbon dioxide is created and how much we contribute to climate change.

Hartlepool's Climate Change Strategy (October 2007) sets out how the borough will seek to prepare for the impacts of Climate Change and secure local action to reduce future emissions. The Strategy sets out an Aim and a series of Objectives:

Aim

Hartlepool will be prepared for the impacts of climate change and will be working in partnership to secure local and global action to tackle it.

7.1 APPENDIX 1

Objectives

1. To safeguard and enhance Hartlepool's competitiveness, encourage technological innovation and support the development of clean technology.
2. To ensure effective climate change communication so that Hartlepool's young people, residents, businesses, communities and organisations understand the issues and challenges ahead, recognise what needs to be done to tackle the issue and what they can do themselves.
3. To minimise the health impacts of climate change and ensure those most vulnerable are not differentially affected.
4. To put in place robust integrated emergency management and seek to ensure a greater targeting of spending to reduce the risks associated with climate change.
5. To make better use of natural resources, reduce the generation of waste and maximise recycling.
6. To reduce green house gas emissions, minimise energy use and increase the use of alternative and renewable energy.
7. Work in partnership to combat the effects of climate change on natural habitats and the plants and animals that rely upon them and act to reduce those pressures which are under our control and build greater resilience into natural ecosystems.
8. To promote sustainable patterns of development and movement and minimise the adverse impacts of transport on climate change.
9. To ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated and that new build is low carbon and highly energy efficient.

If we are to fulfil our ambition we must be fully aware of the possible effects our decisions today might have on the lives of others and their ability to maintain and enhance their quality of life in the future. We must learn from the mistakes of previous generations which have left us with the legacy of both local and global challenges.

And in a world with an ever increasing connectivity between developed and developing nations, Hartlepool must ensure that its ambition is built not just on local equity between its most deprived and affluent neighbourhoods but on a global equity and responsibility that our success is not at the expense of progress in developing nations.

Timetable for future reviews

Hartlepool's Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy will need to be reviewed over time. This is important to ensure that:

- there is continued support for the Vision, Aims and Objectives;
- the Strategy remains relevant and accurate;
- the Strategy is responsive to risks and opportunities;
- local communities are able to express their needs;
- the process is open and accountable.

A Community Strategy review might take different forms:

- a staged review where individual elements or Themes are refreshed in turn;
- a discrete review where one element or Theme of the Strategy is refreshed.

In both these cases new chapters will be drawn up while the remainder of the Strategy stays in place.

The full Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy will be reviewed again in five years.

Consultation details

Comments on this third draft are welcome and should be received during the 10 week consultation period and no later than Monday 14th April 2008 to:

Freepost RRA E-CATT-SXAL
Hartlepool Partnership
Bryan Hanson House
Hanson Square
Hartlepool TS24 7BT

Contributions can be emailed to:

hartlepoolpartnership@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further copies of the Strategy are available online or by telephoning the Hartlepool Partnership on 01429 284147.

Alternatively, you can respond to this consultation opportunity online at www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk by following the Community Strategy Review link

You are invited to respond to the consultation questions outlined below. You can respond to all of them, to some and not others, or to write about other issues that are not covered.

Timetable for final draft Strategy

Responses from this consultation will be analysed and used to inform the preparation of the final Strategy scheduled for publication in summer 2008.

7.1 APPENDIX 1

Consultation questions

1. Does the 3rd draft Community Strategy set out a strategic direction and long term vision that reflects Hartlepool's ambition?
2. Does the Strategy adequately demonstrate how it will contribute to sustainable development?
3. Do the Principles on page 13 capture the way in which you think the Strategy should be implemented?
4. Does the Hartlepool Partnership's Policy Framework set out on page 45 adopt the right Strategies?
5. What would you like to see changed?
6. How could consultation on the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy be improved in future?

Other Consultation Opportunities

Alongside this 3rd draft of the Community Strategy are published three other reports on which we would welcome feedback.

- **Hartlepool in 2020** sets out what it would be like to live and work in Hartlepool in the future.
- The **Community Strategy Sustainability Appraisal** assesses the Strategy's contribution to Sustainable Development. A non-technical summary of this appraisal is also available online.
- The **Community Strategy Diversity Impact Assessment** determine the extent of differential impact upon the relevant groups i.e. race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation and religious beliefs and whether that impact is adverse.

All these documents are available online or directly from the Partnership Support Team.

Disclosure

A summary of responses to this consultation will be published. Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence.

In view of this, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Setting the Strategy in Context

Nationally

Preparing Community Strategies: Government Guidance To Local Authorities: (Cabinet Office, 2001)

Part I of the Local Government Act 2000 placed on principal local authorities a duty to prepare 'Community Strategies' for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of their areas, and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the UK. It also gave authorities broad new powers to improve and promote local well-being as a means of helping them to implement those strategies. Part I of the Act came into force on 18 October 2000.

A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal: National Strategy Action Plan (Cabinet Office, 2001)

This strategy sets out the Government's policy to narrow the gap between deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the country so 'that within 10-20 years, no-one should be seriously disadvantaged by where they live.' The Government identified that a key task in achieving this was for Local Strategic Partnerships to prepare Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies (NRS). The Government also indicated that all neighbourhoods that need priority status at the local level should be identified in the NRS, and that local action plans (or Neighbourhood Action Plans – NAPs) for each of these neighbourhoods should be prepared.

Local residents and community groups were identified as key in turning their neighbourhoods around and the importance of using the NAP preparation as a means of encouraging local people and organisations to work together to integrate policies at the local level and improve the way that services are provided as underlined.

Sustainable Communities Building for the Future (ODPM, 2005)

This programme of action tackles the pressing problems in communities in England: homes are unaffordable in some areas, but are being abandoned in others. Decent homes and good quality local environments are required in all regions. This document sets out the Government's determination to reverse, over the next 15-20 years, some damaging, deep-seated trends. It is part of the Government's wider drive to raise the quality of life in communities through increasing prosperity, reducing inequalities, more employment, better public services, better health and education, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, and much more. It reflects key principles for public service reform: raising standards, devolving and delegating decision-making, providing greater flexibility over use of resources and choice for customers.

Although a long term programme, it sets out the intent to increase and refocus investment in the next three years to accelerate change and address the most acute needs. It builds on existing policies and actions notably those in the Urban and Rural White Papers, (Our Towns and Cities: the Future and Our Countryside: the Future - November 2000), and policies for devolving power to regions, and modernisation of local government.

Regionally**Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East:
Submission Draft (North East Assembly, 2005)**

The Draft Regional Spatial Strategy sets out a long term strategy for the spatial development of the North East and contains an overall vision, strategy and associated policies to guide development towards 2021 and beyond. It provides the spatial context for the delivery of other regional strategies, in particular the Regional Economic Strategy, Regional Housing Strategy and the Integrated Regional Framework. The RSS is part of the statutory development plan under the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Local planning authorities such as Hartlepool will prepare the other components of the Development Plan through their Local Development Frameworks. In terms of overall vision, the common theme of the RSS and these other related strategies is the need to reduce the economic and social disparities between the North east and other regions whilst protecting and enhancing the region's environment. This approach has been endorsed by the Government and forms the basis for "Moving Forward: The Northern Way A Strategy for Growth". It requires accelerated economic activity and a renaissance throughout the region. The RSS also recognises that there are parts of the North East currently experiencing high levels of socio-economic deprivation and dereliction and that both urban and rural areas are characterised by pockets of poor quality housing exhibiting low demand and abandonment. It also recognises that the economic, social and environmental regeneration of these areas is essential to the region's continued growth and quality of life.

Sustainable Communities in the North East (ODPM, 2003)

Sustainable communities: Building for the future (a national plan of action) marks a step change in building and maintaining sustainable communities in all our regions. In the North East, it complements and builds on the key strategic aims and objectives of the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal, One North East's Regional Economic Strategy (RES), ODPM's Regional Planning Guidance for the North East (RPG1) and the Regional Housing Strategy. It is an action plan to build successful, thriving and inclusive communities where people want to live. We need to create sustainable communities which:

- are economically prosperous;
- have decent homes at a price people can afford;
- safeguard the countryside;
- enjoy a well-designed, accessible and pleasant living and working environment;
- are effectively and fairly governed with a strong sense of community.

This regional plan sets out proposals for implementing the national plan of action in the North East. It does not attempt to cover all the issues of importance to communities. It highlights actions to address housing, planning and neighbourhood renewal issues.

Moving Forward: The Northern Way (Northern Way Steering Group, 2004)

The Northern Way vision is to seek the transformation of the North to become an area of exceptional opportunity, combining a world-class economy with a superb quality of life. The Northern Way has made considerable progress and received substantial support from Government, public agencies and business leaders. The strategy, Moving Forward: The Northern Way (2004) sets out how, over a 20 year period, it seeks to bridge the output gap of around £30bn between the North and the average for England.

Regional Economic Strategy (RES) – July 2006

The RES sets out how One North East are going to deliver greater and sustainable prosperity to all people of the North East over the period to 2016. This document both sits within the context of, and seeks to influence, a number of European, national, pan regional, regional and sub regional frameworks and strategies. The RES also sets out the relative strengths and weaknesses of the North East England's economy over recent decades and how this links into growth potential for the future.

Regional Housing Strategy (North East Housing Board, 2005)

In May 2005 the North East Housing Board approved an updated North East Housing Strategy which was accepted by ministers in August 2005. There are four broad aims to the strategy:

- Developing housing to meet 21st Century demands and replacing unwanted houses with high quality housing. These houses must be long lasting and make cohesive, unified communities.
- Provide new housing for larger households and to fulfil peoples' aspirations for better housing.
- Improving and maintaining existing housing.
- Consider specific housing needs including affordability in some rural locations, the needs of an ageing population and the special needs of other groups.

The Strategy sets out the North East Housing Board's strategic aims and priorities for all housing in the region. It provides a framework that encourages the development of appropriate housing solutions at regional, sub-regional and local levels. It seeks to influence private and public sector investment decisions and sets the strategic context within which housing providers should operate. The strategy covers the period 2005-2021 but it will be subject to regular updates. The Strategy builds on the first version of the Strategy published in 2003, by strengthening the relationship between housing, economic and demographic change. It will integrate the Regional Housing Strategy (RHS) with the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and the Northern Way Growth Strategy and align the RHS with the Regional Economic Strategy (RES).

Turning Ambition into Reality: The North East Regional plan for sport and physical activity 2004-2008 (Sport England North East, 2004)

The Strategy considers sport and physical activity in its broadest sense, showing how it relates to wider social, economic and environmental issues. It sets out to guide the work and the commitment needed from a wide range of people and organisations from sports clubs to regional agencies. The Sport England regional office prepared the plan during 2003 and 2004, following wide-ranging consultation with partners and stakeholders at a series of meetings and seminars. The Strategy's Vision is:

To make the north east an active and successful sporting region.

To turn the vision into reality the strategy establishes the importance of working together to create fair and equal opportunities for people to start, stay and succeed in sport and physical activity. Key delivery areas are:

Increase participation: convert the regional passion for sport and physical activity into a 1% year-on-year increase in participation from 2004 to 2020.

Widen access: make sure that equal access to sport and physical activity is seen as a basic right of all the region's people.

Improve health and wellbeing: recognise sport and physical activity as the single most effective way of improving the health of the region's people.

Create stronger and safer communities: create a culture of challenge where involvement in sport and physical activity is seen as central to the long-term health of all communities.

Improve education: Use the education system to raise people's hopes and change the culture towards lifelong participation in sport and physical activity.

Improve levels of performance: make sure the sporting structure in the north east provides the best opportunity for everyone to achieve their potential and for high performers to compete at a world-class level.

Benefit the economy: make sure the sport and physical activity sector makes an increasing contribution to the region's economy in terms of skills, image, economic and social development.

Tees Valley Vision (TV JSU, 2003)

The Tees Valley Vision sets out a long-term strategic vision for the Tees Valley and provides the policy context in which Tees Valley Regeneration, the Urban Regeneration Company for the Tees Valley, should operate.

The purpose of the strategic framework is to provide a long-term response to job losses, to argue the case for public sector expenditure on economic development and the regeneration of the sub region, and to provide a coherent, long term programme for the development of the area.

Key areas the Tees Valley Vision covers include:

- Housing Market Renewal
- Environmental improvement
- Knowledge-based economy
- Enterprise culture
- Lifelong learning culture
- Integrated transport system
- Coastal Arc from Hartlepool to Redcar
- Health inequalities
- Quality of life

The Vision sets out that “by 2020, Hartlepool is fully developed as a business and commercial centre, a major waterfront location and a focus for shared service centres and short holiday breaks. It is a prosperous, confident and outward-looking community. The ports of Tees and Hartlepool have continued to grow and Teesport is now a major container terminal serving both the north of England and Scotland”.

Tees Valley City Region Development Programme (TV JSU 2005)

Prepared in response to the Northern Way, the City Region Development Programme (CRDP) builds on the work of the Tees Valley Vision and includes an economic analysis of the City Region, an assessment of the economic challenges and a programme of investment required. It sets out strong links to the corresponding work being undertaken by Durham and North Yorkshire County Councils and includes achievements to date in delivering the Vision.

Tees Valley City Region – A Business Case for Delivery (TV JSU 2006)

In May 2006, following a visit to the City Region of the new Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Tees Valley was asked to prepare a Business Case to complement the CRDP. The Business Case's objective is to improve the economic performance of the Tees Valley through developing programmes to improve our economic assets, improve our urban competitiveness and tackle some of the main barriers to economic growth. It also sets out improved City Region governance arrangements. Finally, it shows how Government can help the City Region deliver a programme of improved economic performance.

Coastal Arc

(Hartlepool Borough Council, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council, 2004, updated 2006 – 2008)

Coastal Arc is an economic regeneration initiative, although tourism is a key driver, that takes a holistic approach to the regeneration of the Tees Valley Coast. Its aim is to attract new investment, significantly enhance the physical environment and make a critical contribution to the regional tourism offer. The Coastal Arc takes a partnership approach to deliver renaissance, revival and regeneration of the Tees Valley. It provides a long term strategy for the sustainable regeneration of coastal communities, together with opportunities for developing and diversifying local economies.

Coastal Arc's Vision is centred on two themes:

- **Coastal Experience:** to create and develop activities and places that will be attractive enough to draw visitors and tourists to the coast on a regular and repeat basis and
- **Coastal Management:** to put in place measures that will ensure continual improvements to the quality of the facilities, the promotion and support to visitor tourism based businesses.

Locally

Local Development Framework

Under the new planning system introduced in 2005, the development plan will comprise the Regional Spatial Strategy (see pg 56) and a series of Development Plan Documents within the Local Development Framework.

There are 2 types of documents in the LDF – Development Documents, setting out the spatial strategy and planning policies for the area, and other documents relating to the plan making process.

A. Development Plan Documents (DPDs) – which together with the Regional Spatial Strategy will comprise the statutory Development Plan and deliver the spatial planning strategy for the area. Eventually there will be a number of different types of Development Plan Documents as follows:

- **Core Strategy** DPD setting out the spatial vision, spatial objectives and core policies for the area;
- **Site Specific Allocations** DPDs identifying areas of land for development such as new housing or employment sites;
- **Action Area Plans** (where needed) relating to specific parts of the area where there will be comprehensive treatment or to protect sensitive areas;
- **Proposals Map** which will be updated as each new DPD is adopted;
- DPDs containing waste and minerals policies; and any other DPDs considered necessary.

The Core Strategy must generally conform with the Regional Spatial Strategy and all other DPDs must conform with the Core Strategy.

B. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) – these are non-statutory documents expanding on or providing further detail to policies in a Development Plan Document – they can take the form of design guides, development briefs, master plans or issue-based documents.

The other documents included in the LDF are:

- I. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) – setting out the details of each of the Local Development Documents to be started over a period of three years or so and the timescales and arrangements for preparation. The current Hartlepool Local Development Scheme can be viewed on the Council's website at www.hartlepool.gov.uk
- II. Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) – setting out the policy for involving the community and others with an interest in the development process both in the preparation and revision of Local Development Documents and with respect to planning applications. The current Hartlepool Statement of Community Interest can be viewed on the Council's website at www.hartlepool.gov.uk
- III. Annual Monitoring Report – assessing the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which policies in Local Development Documents are being achieved.

In addition to the change in format, the emphasis of plan making is changing. Planning is now required to more consciously and deliberately take into account the economic, social and environmental implications when weighing up competing demands for land. The new emphasis, known as spatial planning, encourages community involvement in the early stages of plan making and provides a greater scope to promote and manage looked-for change.

Local Area Agreement (Hartlepool Partnership, 2006/09)

Local Area Agreements (LAAs) are a Government initiative, launched in 2004. LAAs are aimed at delivering a better quality of life for people through improving performance on a range of national and local priorities and introduced a new way of working to build a more flexible and responsive relationship between central government and a locality on the priority outcomes that need to be achieved at a local level. The Hartlepool LAA is the delivery plan for the Community Strategy and is structured around the themes of the Community Strategy. Hartlepool's LAA was agreed by the Council and the Hartlepool Partnership Board in February 2006 and was signed off by Government in March 2006. The government has announced its intentions for all areas to sign new LAAs in 2008 and it is anticipated that this will take place in June. LAAs are refreshed annually.

Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs)

The Government's National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal set out that all neighbourhoods that need priority status at the local level should be identified in the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, and that Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs) for each of these neighbourhoods should be prepared. The NAPs together form the geographical element of the Hartlepool Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (NRS).

NAPs are structured around the key themes of the Hartlepool Community Strategy therefore integrating economic, social and environmental issues. These 'golden threads' have enabled the NAPs to be taken on board by each of the Theme Partnerships delivering each theme of the Community Strategy.

NAPs have been developed in each of the NRS priority neighbourhoods and they are already shaping mainstream service delivery and act as a framework for how additional new resources are prioritised locally.

Individual NAPs are available to view on the Partnership's website www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk

The Consultation Process

Informing the preparation of the 1st draft Strategy

The Community Strategy review was formally launched on the 5th May 2006. In advance of the publication of a first draft in Autumn, feedback was sought on the existing Strategy. This consultation ran for 3 months to the 31st July.

To raise awareness of the review, a number of promotional activities were carried out including:

1. Household Questionnaires, leaflets and posters
2. Presentation to the Hartlepool Partnership
3. Presentation to the Council's Cabinet
4. Provision of a seminar for Councillors
5. Presentations to the North, Central & South Neighbourhood Consultative Forums
6. Presentations to Theme Partnerships and the Hartlepool Community Network
7. Meeting with the Neighbourhood Forum Resident Representatives
8. A week long promotion in Middleton Grange Shopping Centre
9. Drop in sessions in community venues
10. Publicity through Hartbeat, the Hartlepool Mail and Radio Cleveland
11. Information on the Partnership's website

The consultation engaged residents, local groups and organisations by asking them to consider the Vision and Aims of the existing Strategy. To enable greater involvement in the review a Consultation Toolkit was developed to provide local groups and organisations with the key resources that they would need to undertake their own consultation activities.

A range of consultation activity took place across the Borough including:

1. Household questionnaire
2. On-line questionnaire
3. View point 1000 questionnaire (Hartlepool's Citizens' Panel)
4. Theme Partnership consultation events
5. Key organisation and group consultation events

In addition, the results of other recent consultation activity undertaken in Hartlepool, including the preparation of the Local Development Framework Statement of Community Involvement was reviewed.

A total of over 1100 people responded to our request for feedback on the 2002 Community Strategy and priorities for future improvement.

Feedback on the 2002 Vision

Over 70% of respondents agreed with the Vision set out in the 2002 Community Strategy. Where suggestions for improvement were provided these included comments relating to crime and community safety, quality of the street scene and wider environment, health, regeneration, skills and skilled jobs, and respect for one another and for the history of the town.

As a result of this feedback, the original vision was revised from:

'Hartlepool will be a prosperous, caring, confident and outward looking community in an attractive environment, realising its potential' to:

'Hartlepool will be a thriving, respectful, inclusive, healthy, ambitious and outward looking community, in an attractive and safe environment, where everyone is able to realise their potential.'

Feedback on the 2002 Priority Aims

Community Strategy 2002 set out 7 Priority Aims:

1. Jobs and the economy
2. Lifelong learning and skills
3. Health and care
4. Community safety
5. Environment and housing
6. Culture and Leisure
7. Strengthening communities

Respondents were asked which of these aims should be tackled first and there was a clear consensus that Jobs and the Economy should be the top priority for action. Community Safety and Health & Care were clear second and third priorities.

Around a third of respondents suggested changes to the aims. Many of these related to adult education and job creation, higher levels of policing and reduced crime and greater health education, healthy living and provision of health care facilities. People also wanted to be consulted more and to feel more involved in the review process.

When asked what changes in service provision would improve their quality of life improved policing/reduced crime and more public transport were the two top service areas. Tidying local neighbourhoods and reducing the amount of litter were also factors which many highlighted as improving quality of life.

Further detail on the consultation undertaken to inform the first draft is available in a separate report, that can be viewed on the Hartlepool Partnership Website www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk by clicking on the Community Strategy logo.

Publication of the first draft Strategy.

The first draft of the revised Community Strategy was published in September 2006 with a 9 week consultation period. The second phase of consultation on the 1st draft Strategy ran from early September to 17th November 2006.

A range of consultation activity took place across the Borough including:

1. Distribution of draft strategy to key consultees including Councillors, Hartlepool Partnership Board, Theme Partnerships, Parish Councils, Residents Associations, Community and Voluntary Sector groups and Schools.
2. Electronic and paper questionnaire
3. Distribution of leaflet including community venues, libraries, health centres, key service providers, housing offices, neighbourhood offices

The consultation asked respondents a number of specific questions. They were invited to respond to them all, to some and not others, or to write about other issues that were not covered. The consultation questions were:

7. Is the draft Strategy about right?
8. What would you like to see changed?
9. Does the Vision capture Hartlepool's ambition?
10. Do you agree with the Priority Aims and related Objectives?
11. Is there anything you would like to add to the Priority Aims?
12. How could consultation on the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy be improved in future?

Feedback on the first draft Strategy

The Vision

There was broad support for the Strategy and agreement with the vision was at high at over 90%. Where there was disagreement, feedback included:

- Readability – views that the vision was too long, wordy and difficult to remember
- Deliverable – was the vision achievable in the timescale
- Reference to specific areas of service delivery e.g. more police, environmental quality, development of specific skill sectors.

As a result of the high level of support for the Vision, no proposed changes were made for the second draft.

The Priority Aims

Respondents were asked what if any improvements or changes they would make to the Priority Aims. Here a broad range of comments were received, both in relation to the Aims of the Community Strategy and the Issues and Priorities of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

Further details of the comments received and the policy response that informed the preparation of the second draft are set out in a separate report, '*Community Strategy Review 2006 1st draft Consultation: issues and responses*'. This report can be viewed on the Hartlepool Partnership website www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk by clicking on the Community Strategy link on the homepage.

Feedback from this consultation was used to inform the second draft of the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy published in March 2007.

Strategy Appraisal

Background

The second draft of the Community Strategy, published in March 2007 set out the intention to carry out a number of strategy appraisals. These were to be used to highlight practical ways to enhance the positive aspects of the Strategy and to remove or minimise any negative impacts.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment compliant Sustainability Appraisal

The European Directive 2001/42/EC requires assessments for plans which “determine the use of small areas at a local level” or for minor modifications to plans “where they are determined to be likely to have a significant environmental effects”.

Guidance from government suggests that when a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required this should be integrated into a wider Sustainability Appraisal process incorporating consideration of social, and economic effects in addition to matters outlined in the SEA directive.

In June 2007 a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was published for consultation. This Scoping report set out how a future Sustainability Appraisal would be carried out and was prepared jointly to cover Hartlepool's Local Development Documents as well as the Community Strategy. Details of the responses to this consultation along with the policy response can be found in a separate report on the Partnership's website by clicking on the Community Strategy logo on the homepage and following the Sustainability Appraisal link.

In line with the findings of the Scoping Report, a Sustainability Appraisal has been published for consultation alongside this 3rd draft of the Community Strategy.

Section 17

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires local and police authorities, to consider crime and disorder reduction and community safety when undertaking all of their duties and responsibilities. Safe in Tees Valley were approached to undertake a Section 17 review of the 2nd draft of the Community Strategy, and their findings along with the policy response can be found in a separate report on the Partnership's website by clicking on the Community Strategy logo on the homepage and following the Strategy Appraisal link.

Rural Proofing

Rural Proofing ensures that strategies take account of rural circumstances and needs (Rural White Paper, 2000). This includes:

- considering whether their policy is likely to have a different impact in rural areas, because of particular rural circumstances or needs;
- making a proper assessment of those impacts, if these are likely to be significant;
- adjusting the policy, where appropriate, with solutions to meet rural needs and circumstances.

Tees Valley Rural Community Council were approached to undertake a Rural Proofing review of the 2nd draft of the Community Strategy, and their findings along with the policy response can be found in a separate report on the Partnership's website by clicking on the Community Strategy logo on the homepage and following the Strategy Appraisal link.

Health Impact Assessment

In a change to the proposed arrangements, it was agreed that a separate Health Impact Assessment would not be carried out, but that the health dimension of the Sustainability Appraisal would provide sufficient information.

Diversity Impact Assessment

The main function of the assessment is to determine the extent of differential impact upon the relevant groups i.e. race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation and religious beliefs and whether that impact is adverse. The aim is the promotion of equality of opportunity, the elimination of discrimination and the promotion of good race relations.

This assessment is published for consultation alongside this 3rd draft of the Community Strategy.

Jargon Buster

Accountable body - the legal body that will handle government grants on behalf of a Partnership

Accredited Landlords - Members of a voluntary scheme operated by the local authority that encourages higher standards of management and better property conditions in the private rented sector, on a mutually beneficial basis. **Accredited LSP** - the Hartlepool Partnership is the accredited Local Strategic Partnership. To gain accreditation the Partnership had to demonstrate it met a set of Government standards that covered the operation of the Partnership, and its plans for improvement

Action Plan - short-term plan of action with activities and targets and milestones

Audit Commission - the national body overseeing auditing of public bodies

Baseline Figure/Information - a description of the current local conditions against which planned changes will be measured

Benchmark - something by which to measure or compare

Best Value - means by which public bodies are required to continuously review and improve services

Brownfield land - land previously developed upon

Children's Trusts - partnerships that provide a mechanism to lead the way in delivering a step change in services for children and young people

Children and Young People's Plan - The Big Plan - a plan to improve the lives of children and young people in Hartlepool

Claimant count - unemployed claiming benefits

Coastal Arc - a spatial development zone. The Tees Valley coastline, its greatest natural asset, will now take on a new role in moving the Tees Valley and its people forward. Together we have the strength to deliver and inspirational projects that will

impact upon everything that is key to the success of the Tees Valley

Community Enterprise - economic activity based in a community

Community Network - the network of voluntary and community sector groups and organisations operating in Hartlepool

Community Sector - see voluntary sector - but usually more dependent on volunteers and no paid staff

Community Strategy - the plan that has to be produced by law to promote and improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the community and sustainable development

Compact - formal understanding between voluntary sector and other organisations

Co-ordination - getting organisations working together to improve services

Consultation - involvement of the community in decision-making process

Curriculum - matters to be covered in education for each age group

Deprived, Deprivation & Disadvantage - communities or groups where several factors reduce the life chances and opportunities of people (see Index of Multiple Deprivation)

Development Plan - Documents setting out the policies and proposals for the development and use of land and buildings.

Disability Discrimination Act - legislation that aims to end the discrimination faced by many disabled people

Disaffection - describing a child who chooses not to be a part of the education system or society as a whole

Diversionsary activities - activities to attract people away from crime

Diversity - wide range of types often bio-diversity of wildlife and vegetation

Drugs Action Team (DAT) - special team to address drugs related issues

Economic Exclusion – people of working age who are unable to take up employment opportunities. Disabled people are one of the largest groups of people who can suffer economic exclusion.

Economic Forum - partnership leading work on the Jobs and the Economy Theme.

Empowerment – enabling people to take responsibility for themselves and helping them to make decisions about their own lives

Environment Partnership – partnership leading work on the Environment Theme

Ethnic Minority - people from a different culture, religion or language to the main one in a particular place

Evaluation - to judge or assess the success of something, which has taken place

Feasibility Study - an exercise before implementation to assess whether an action is likely to achieve its objective

Feedback - reporting back information on something that has been done

Forward Strategy - arrangements to continue the process once a regeneration programme is complete

Goal - long-term broad objective

Governance – how a body or organisation is managed

Government Office for the North East is the regional office for the government departments.

Greenfield land - land not previously developed on

Hartlepool Partnership - Hartlepool's 'Local Strategic Partnership' including the key service providers, business and community interests working together to improve the quality of life in the town

Health Improvement Plan (HIP) - improvement plan for the Health Authority and Primary Care Trust

Implementation - carrying out a plan or strategy

Life chances - people's opportunities and choices to improve their quality of life, to be respected and included as equal members of society

Housing Partnership – partnership leading work on the Housing Theme

Inclusion - giving all people equal opportunity to be part of society and the economy

Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 (IMD) - a national measure of disadvantage

Indicators - headline and others - measures of conditions

Inequalities - gaps between the most advantaged and the most disadvantaged

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) - modern technology such as computers and the Internet

Joint Investment Plans (JIPs) - joint plans between Social Services, Health and other partners for joint use of resources

Key Stages - in education stages when progress is measured

Learning and Skills Council - organisation responsible for the co-ordination of post 16 years training and education in the Tees Valley

Lifelong Learning - learning throughout life, children and adults, in work and out of work or in retirement

Local action on learning plan – Part of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy that sets out measures to improve the skills, knowledge and training needed to successfully deliver Neighbourhood Renewal

Local Agenda 21 - the local sustainability strategy

Local Area Agreement – Agreement between Hartlepool Borough Council, the Hartlepool Partnership and Central Government that sets out the priorities for Hartlepool along with indicators and three year targets

Local Development Document (LDD) - An individual document in the planning Local Development Framework.

Proposals Map Illustrating on an Ordnance Survey base the policies and proposals of Development Plan Documents

Local Development Framework (LDF) - The overarching term given to the collection of Local Development Documents which collectively will provide the local planning authority's policies for meeting the community's economic, environmental and social aims for the future of the area where this affects the development and use of land and buildings

Local Development Scheme (LDS) - A public statement setting out the programme for the preparation of the Local Development Documents for the new planning system

Local Plan – sets out the Council's policies for guiding and controlling the way that buildings and land are used and developed

Local Strategic Partnership - the Hartlepool Partnership - the strategic partnership in the town, which prepares the Community Strategy

Mainstreaming – directing public sector resources to target the most deprived areas and joining up programmes

Milestone - important stages or events with date - used to indicate the progress a partnership is making towards its aims

Monitor - regular measure of the progress of projects

National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) - national standard qualifications

Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAPs)– document produced to set out the vision and objectives of the community for their neighbourhood and which details the actions and initiatives which will help to achieve them

Neighbourhood Consultative Forum – forums at which the public can become involved in issues which affect their area

Neighbourhood Management - management of services recognising local needs

Neighbourhood Renewal - improvement and revitalising of the quality of life in neighbourhoods

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund - special funding initiative to help Councils point main programme activity to neighbourhoods most in need

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy - strategy for improvement of most disadvantaged neighbourhoods - part of the Community Strategy

Neighbourhood Renewal Unit - special team set up in central government

Neighbourhood Support Fund – funding aimed at working with disadvantaged young people

New Deal for Communities (NDC) - a Government initiative that provides money for a 10-year programme of regeneration in the West Central Hartlepool area

Objectives - short or medium term aims that can usually be measured

One North East - the Regional Development Agency (RDA) for the North East of England responsible for delivery of an economic strategy and regeneration

Outcome - something that follows from an action e.g. as a result of an initiative, the unemployment rate is reduced by 15%. The long-term effects you want to see created by a strategy or programme

Output - something produced directly as a result of an action and usually more easily counted e.g. as a result of an initiative 10 jobs were created and 6 people gained qualifications - tells you about the immediate results of a project, programme or strategy

Participation - a two-way process involving the sharing of information and ideas, where residents are able to influence decisions and take part in what is happening

Partnership - a group of organisations and individuals working together with a common purpose

Performance Management Framework/Indicators – a measurable target applied to find out if something is meeting its aims

Pilot Project - a small-scale study or trial of a larger project

Primary Care - health care given outside hospital often in the community

Primary Care Trust - Hartlepool based trust responsible for primary care

Principles - applied by all partners in all their activities - the basis of a code of conduct

Private Sector - businesses and other non-public agencies such as trusts and charities

Programme - group of projects with similar aims that support each other

Projects - an individual activity or action

Public Sector - organisations run or paid for with public money

Public Service Agreement (PSA) – contracts of agreement with government to work towards certain targets with various strategies

Qualitative - information, which shows the quality of something

Quantitative - information, which shows the numbers of something

Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Statutory regional planning policy

Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) – organisations registered and approved by the Housing Corporation to provide social housing for rent

Regeneration - improving an area and community

Renewal – improving or reviving an area or community

Resources - money, time, property, people, information and infrastructure

Resources analysis - looking at the use of resources in an area and how it relates to the aims and priorities

Review - scrutinise, evaluate and change plans or services

Safer Hartlepool Partnership - main partnership promoting community safety and the reduction of crime and disorder

Single Programme – funding allocated by the Tees Valley Sub Regional Partnership

Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) - special regeneration programmes that operated in the north and the south of Hartlepool.

Social Exclusion – people or areas that suffer from a combination of factors that include unemployment, high crime, low income and poor housing

Standardised Mortality Ratios - death rates taking into account age structures

Standards of attainment - levels achieved in education and training

Strategy - a plan with aims and steps to their achievement

Strategy Group (Health and Care) - key partnership for Health and Care

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) - A document setting out how Hartlepool Borough Council intends to involve the community, including voluntary and community groups, local residents, businesses and landowners in the new planning system

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) - A generic term used internationally to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes

Super Output Areas (SOAs) – standardised areas at around 1500 population in size

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) - A local development document providing further detail of policies in development plan documents

SureStart Programme - special programme for young children and their families

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) - Identifies and evaluates social, environmental and economic effects of strategies and policies from the outset of the preparation process

Sustainable Development - can continue to take place without harm to the interests of future generations

Sustainable Communities - meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, their children and other users, contribute to a high quality of life and provide opportunity and choice.

Target Hardening - physical measures to make areas or properties more secure

Targets - measurable level being aimed for, usually within a set time period

Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit – responsible for strategic planning on local services and issues in the Tees Valley Area

Tees Valley Partnership - a partnership for the Tees Valley

Tees Valley Vision - a vision being prepared by the above

Tenure - degree of ownership of a property or home e.g. owner-occupier, privately rented, Council Housing, Housing Association

Truancy & unauthorised absences - school absence without permission

Viability - in relation to the town centre - businesses can make enough money to continue to operate and invest

Viewpoint 1000 - regular sample survey of a panel of residents

Vision - a view of what a community will be like in the long term

Vitality - in relation to the town centre - liveliness and level of activity and investment

Voluntary Organisation - groups whose activities are not carried out for profit, and are not public bodies or a local authority. They rely on a high proportion of their activity being done by volunteers

Voluntary Sector - a name to describe all the voluntary organisations in a town. In Hartlepool 400 organisations make up the voluntary sector

Welfare to Work - a Central Government Programme, which aims to deliver wide-ranging job, training and local employment opportunities

White Paper – statement of policy intent issued by the Government

Youth Offending Service - team established to address youth offending

List of Abbreviations

CCF	Community Chest Fund
CEF	Community Empowerment Fund
CS	Community Strategy
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DEFRA	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DETR	Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions
DFES	Department for Education and Skills
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GONE	Government Office for the North East
GP	General Practitioner
HImp	Health Improvement Programme
IB	Incapacity Benefit
ICT	Information & Communication Technology
ILM	Intermediate Labour Market
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
JSA	Job Seeker's Allowance
LA	Local Authority
LAA	Local Area Agreement
LDF	Local Development Framework
LDS	Local Development Scheme
LEA	Local Education Authority
LPSA	Local Public Service Agreement
LSC	Learning & Skills Council
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership

MORI	Market & Opinion Research International
MRUK	Market Research UK
NAP	Neighbourhood Action Plan
NCF	Neighbourhood Consultative Forum
NDC	New Deal for Communities
NHP	North Hartlepool Partnership
NRF	Neighbourhood Renewal Fund
NRS	Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy
NRU	Neighbourhood Renewal Unit
NSF	Neighbourhood Support Fund
ORCEL	Owton Rossmore Community Enterprise Ltd
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education
ONE	One North East
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PAT	Policy Action Team
PCT	Primary Care Trust
PI	Performance Indicator
PMF	Performance Management Framework
PSA	Public Service Agreement
RDA	Regional Development Agency
RSL	Registered Social Landlord
SCI	Statement of Community Involvement
SDA	Severe Disablement Allowance
SMR	Standard Mortality Ratio
SOA	Super Output Areas
SRB	Single Regeneration Budget
SWAN	South West Area Network (Hartlepool)
TVJSU	Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit
TVP	Tees Valley Partnership
URC	Urban Regeneration Company

Endnotes

This Strategy was compiled by Joanne Smithson (Team Leader), Catherine Frank, John Potts, Dawn Bennett and Richard Starrs with contributions from colleagues across the Hartlepool Partnership, and over 1550 submissions received during the public consultations that ran from May 2006 to June 2007.

Special thanks to Chris Barlow who worked with the Partnership Support Team until December 2006.

Published February 2008.



CABINET REPORT

4th February 2008



Report of: Head of Community Strategy

Subject: COMMUNITY STRATEGY & NEIGHBOURHOOD
RENEWAL STRATEGY

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To agree the 3rd draft Community Strategy, *Hartlepool's Ambition*, (Appendix 1) and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal (Appendix 2) as consultation documents. A 10 week consultation period is proposed closing on 14th April 2008

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report provides an update on the review and sets out a third revised draft of the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. It also provides an update on the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal.

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

The Community Strategy and the Local Agenda 21 Strategy form part of the policy framework.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Budget and Policy Framework

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Cabinet	4 th February 2008
Hartlepool Partnership	1 st February 2008

6. DECISIONS REQUIRED

Cabinet is asked to agree the third draft of the Community Strategy & Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal as consultation documents.

Report of: Head of Community Strategy

Subject: COMMUNITY STRATEGY & NEIGHBOURHOOD
RENEWAL STRATEGY REVIEW 2006

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To agree the 3rd draft Community Strategy, *Hartlepool's Ambition*, (Appendix 1) and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal (Appendix 2) as consultation documents.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2000 places on principal Local Authorities a duty to prepare Community Strategies for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of their areas, and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the UK.
- 2.2 In October 2006, the Local Government White Paper, *Strong and prosperous communities* was published. Chapter 5 sets out a framework for effective and coordinated local service delivery including:
- A duty on the local authority to prepare the Sustainable Community Strategy in consultation with others as set out in section 4 of the Local Government Act 2000; and
 - That the Sustainable Community Strategy and other local and regional plans to be drawn up with regard to each other.
- 2.3 The role of the Sustainable Community Strategy is established as setting out the strategic vision for a place. It is to provide a vehicle for considering and deciding how to address difficult cross-cutting issues such as the economic future of an area, social exclusion and climate change. Building these issues into the community's vision in an integrated way is established as being at the heart of creating sustainable development at the local level.
- 2.4 The Hartlepool Partnership, the town's Local Strategic Partnership, and the Council agreed a draft Community Strategy in April 2001 and adopted a final version in April 2002. Hartlepool's Community Strategy set out a timetable for review in five years. In line with this agreement, the Community Strategy Review 2006 was launched on 5th May 2006.
- 2.3 A timetable for review was established with the identification of key stages of work leading to the adoption of a new strategy. The first stage, pre-consultation was launched on 5th May and concluded in July 2006. The second phase, consultation on the first draft, ran from September to 17th November 2006.

Comments were analysed and a second draft Strategy published in March 2007. A series of strategy appraisals were undertaken during 2007, the most detailed being the Sustainability Appraisal. The findings from these appraisals have been incorporated into this third draft.

3. THE 3RD DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL STRATEGY

- 3.1 The 3rd draft of a revised Community Strategy & Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy takes into account the findings of a range of appraisals carried out on the 2nd draft Strategy. Their aim was to highlight practical ways to enhance the positive aspects of the Strategy and to remove or minimise any negative impacts.
- 3.2 The 2nd draft Community Strategy set out the intention to carry out a number of appraisals on this plan.
- The Integrated Regional Framework for the North East
 - Strategic Environmental Assessment
 - Health Impact Assessment
 - Section 17
 - Rural Proofing
 - Diversity Impact Assessment
- 3.3 As the scope of these appraisals was developed, it was decided to combine the first two appraisals on this list to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment compliant Sustainability Appraisal. This would be informed by the requirements of the Regional Framework and also meet the requirements of the European requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- 3.4 One of the 15 Appraisal Criteria established for the Sustainability Appraisal is health: "To improve the health and wellbeing of the Hartlepool Community", so a decision was taken not to undertake a specific Health Impact Assessment for the draft Strategy.

It was therefore agreed to carry out the following appraisals:

- Sustainability Appraisal
 - Diversity Impact Assessment
 - Rural Proofing
 - Section 17.
- 3.5 A separate report on the findings of these appraisals is available on the Partnership's website by clicking on the Community Strategy Review link on the homepage.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Cabinet is asked to agree the third draft of the Community Strategy & Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal as consultation documents.

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

14 March 2008



Report of: Assistant Chief Executive

Subject: CORPORATE PLAN 2008/09: PROPOSED
OUTCOMES AND ACTIONS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the opportunity for the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee to consider the proposed outcomes and actions for inclusion in the Corporate Plan 2008/09.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Government introduced the Best Value regime as part of its programme to modernise local government and the Corporate (Best Value Performance) Plan for 2008/9 must be approved and published by the Council by 30 June 2008. This is the Council's top-level corporate plan. It sets out the Council's top priorities and contributions for delivering the Community Strategy aims in 2008/9.
- 2.2 The Corporate Plan is an important document because it formally communicates the council's vision and priorities. The process for producing the plan has been designed to ensure the risk is minimised and that the Corporate Plan is fit for purpose.
- 2.3 The focus of the Corporate Plan for 2008/9 is on priority activities for improvement at a strategic level rather than day to day service delivery objectives. The operational service delivery objectives are picked up through Departmental service plans which are reported to individual portfolio holders.
- 2.4 At a meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee held on 18 January 2008 it was agreed that the Corporate Plan proposals should be considered by each of the Scrutiny Forums, in February/early March. A separate report detailing comments/observations of each Forum has been prepared for this Committee.

3 THE CORPORATE PLAN

- 3.1 As in previous years the plan will be produced in two parts. Part 1 describes the Council's overall aim, contributions to the Community Strategy aims and organisational development priorities.
- 3.2 Part 2 will continue to contain the detailed supporting information relating to performance statistics which the Council is required to publish. This will include the Best Value performance indicators for 2007/08 and any future targets for 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11. This information can not be collected until after 31 March 2008, and is therefore not available at present.
- 3.3 **Appendix A** details those outcomes and actions that are proposed for inclusion in the 2008/09 Corporate Plan that fall outside the remit of the four Scrutiny Forums, and Scrutiny Coordinating Committee are asked to consider these proposals.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee:-
- (a) considers the proposed outcomes and actions for inclusion in the 2008/09 Corporate Plan as attached at **Appendix A**.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Corporate Plan 2008/09 – Proposed Outcomes and Actions

Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Theme: Strengthening Communities

Outcome	Actions
Increasing financial resources within family environments to provide improved lifestyle opportunities	Develop and implement an Engagement Strategy to increase awareness and accessibility to financial support
Freedom from discrimination or harassment	Enhance Equality and Diversity arrangements and mainstream into all council service activities
Improving Financial Inclusion	Support the development of the Hartlepool Financial Inclusion Partnership
	Improve accessibility to secure banking arrangements for the disadvantaged

Theme: Organisational Development

Outcome	Actions
Improve management and governance	Continued development of service planning and performance management arrangements
	Implement Risk Strategy to ensure robust risk management arrangements are in place
	Develop and improve the effectiveness of the overview and scrutiny function
	Development of Governance arrangements
	Ensure arrangements in place to deal with new and existing legislation
	Development of emergency planning and business continuity arrangements
	Prepare for introduction of Comprehensive Area Assessment in 2009

Outcome	Actions
Improve access and understanding between the Council and the Public	Develop the Contact Centre to increase the range of services provided
	Implement the Communicating with your council plans
Improve Elected member and Workforce arrangements	Implement Elected Member Development Strategy
	Implement the People Strategy and Workforce Development Strategy
	Implement Pay and Grading and Single Status arrangements
Improve efficiency and financial management	Develop and implement Efficiency Strategy and key projects
	Develop and implement the Procurement Strategy
	Delivery of the ICT Strategy to support corporate objectives
	Develop Financial Strategy and Management
	Develop Capital Strategy and Asset management

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

14 March 2008



Report of: Scrutiny Manager

Subject: CORPORATE PLAN 2008/09 – VERBAL FEEDBACK
FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEES

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the opportunity for the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to verbally feedback any comments in relation to the Authority's Draft Corporate Plan for 2008/09.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At a meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee held on 18 January 2008, consideration was given to the proposed key objectives of the Draft Corporate Plan for 2007/08.
- 2.2 At this meeting it was agreed that the proposed key objectives and actions as outlined in the Draft Corporate Plan for 2008/09 be considered on a departmental basis by the appropriate Scrutiny Forum. With any comments/observations being fed back to this meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to determine whether it is appropriate to submit a formal response to the Cabinet.
- 2.3 It should be noted that the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee will also have a further opportunity to consider the working draft of the Corporate Plan 2007/08 on 30 May 2008 during which the majority of all performance indicators information will be included. Prior to approval being sought from Full Council on 26 June 2008 and statutory publication on 30 June 2008.

3. VERBAL FEEDBACK FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

- 3.1 Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and the four standing Scrutiny Forums have considered in detail the proposed objectives and

actions as outlined in Draft Corporate Plan 2008/09 between 22 February 2008 and 14 March 2008. Whilst ensuring statutory Access to Information Rules is met, any feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees will be presented verbally during the consideration of this report.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee:-
- (a) considers the verbal feedback of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in relation to the Draft Corporate Plan for 2008/09; and
 - (b) based on the verbal feedback received during this meeting, determines whether it is appropriate to submit a formal response to the Cabinet.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

14th March, 2008



Report of: Assistant Chief Executive and
Chief Financial Officer

Subject: QUARTER 3 – CORPORATE PLAN
PROGRESS & REVENUE FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT REPORT 2007/2008

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide details of: -

- the progress made towards achieving the Corporate Plan Service improvements (SIPS) in order to provide timely information and allow any necessary decisions to be taken;
- to provide details of progress against the Council's overall revenue budget for 2007/2008.

2. CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES

- 2.1 A separate report has not been prepared for your Committee as a comprehensive report was submitted to Cabinet on 3 March, 2008 and this report is attached at **Appendix A**. This report sets out the key issue to bring to your attention.
- 2.2 Previous monitoring reports submitted to Cabinet included an overall summary report detailing performance and financial management information. This report was supported by individual Portfolio reports which provided more detailed information.
- 2.3 The report has now been integrated into one comprehensive document. This has enabled the report to be page numbered, thus allowing Members easier navigation around the report. See Contents Table on page 1 of main report. The report firstly provides an overall picture of performance and progress against the approved 2007/2008

revenue budget, followed by a section for each Portfolio where more detailed information is provided.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members consider the report.

CABINET REPORT

3rd March 2008



Report of: Corporate Management Team

Subject: QUARTER 3 – CORPORATE PLAN AND REVENUE
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT 2007/2008

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform Cabinet of: -

- The progress made towards achieving the Corporate Plan Actions in order to provide timely information and allow any necessary decisions to be taken;
- To provide details of progress against the Council's overall revenue budget for 2007/2008.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

- 2.1 The report describes progress towards achieving the actions within the Corporate Plan using the traffic light system of Green, Amber and Red. The report provides an overview of Council performance, with separate sections providing more detailed information for each Portfolio Holder to consider.
- 2.2 The report also includes details of the forecast 2007/08 revenue outturn as reported to Cabinet on 21 December 2007.

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

Cabinet has overall responsibility for the monitoring of the Council's Corporate Plan and the Revenue budget.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

None.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Cabinet 3rd March 2008

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Cabinet is asked to:-

- Note the current position with regard to performance and revenue monitoring;
- Approve the revised completion date for the action noted in Table RL1
- Take any decisions necessary to address the performance or financial risks identified.

Report of: Corporate Management Team

Subject QUARTER 3 – CORPORATE PLAN AND
REVENUE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
REPORT 2007/2008

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of the progress made towards achieving the Corporate Plan objectives through identified actions and of progress against the Council's own 2007/2008 Revenue Budget, for the period to 31st December, 2007.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In line with previous monitoring reports, this report is an integrated document that is page numbered, thus allowing Members easier navigation around the report. (See contents table below). The report firstly provides an overall picture of performance and progress against the approved 2007/2008 revenue budget, followed by a section for each Portfolio where more detailed information is provided.

Section	Heading	Page
3.	Overall Performance and Progress on Actions and key Performance Indicators	2
4.	Revenue Monitoring 2007/2008 – Summary	3
Detailed Performance and Revenue Monitoring Sections		
5.	Regeneration and Liveability Portfolio	5
6.	Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio	7
7.	Children's Services Portfolio	8
8.	Adult and Public Health Portfolio	10
9.	Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio	12
10.	Finance and Efficiency Portfolio	13
11.	Performance Portfolio	13
12.	Conclusions	15
13.	Recommendations	15
Appendix A	Summary of Forecast Revenue Outturn 2007/08	18

- 2.3 This report will be submitted to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 14 March 2008. This will ensure that Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee is able to review the report at the earliest opportunity.

8.1 APPENDIX A

3 OVERALL PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS ON ACTIONS AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

3.1 The Council identified 140 actions with specific completion dates and 160 key performance indicators (KPIs) as measures of success in the 2007/2008 Corporate Plan.

3.2 Overall performance is good with 96.4% of the actions and 84% of the KPIs (when annually reported actions and PIs have been removed) judged to be either on or above targets. Tables 1 and 2 below summarise officers' views on progress as at 31st December, 2007, for each Portfolio Holder's responsibilities: -

- A **RED** traffic light signifies the Action/KPI is not expected to meet target.
- An **AMBER** traffic light signifies the Action/KPI is expected to meet target.
- A **GREEN** traffic light signifies the target for the Action/KPI has been achieved.

Table 1 – Progress on Actions within the Corporate Plan

Portfolio	Actions by Traffic Lights									
	Green		Amber		Red		Completed		Annual	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Adult and Public Health Services	5	21%	17	71%	0	0%	0	0%	2	8%
Culture, Leisure and Tourism	3	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Children's Services	2	10.5%	16	84%	1	5%	0	0%	0	0%
Neighbourhood and Communities	2	12%	14	82%	0	0%	1	6%	0	0%
Regeneration, and Liveability	4	9.5%	34	81%	1	2.3%	2	5%	1	2%
Finance and Efficiency	3	27%	3	27%	0	0	4	36%	1	9%
Performance Management	9	25%	18	50%	3	8%	6	17%	0	0%

*figure may not always add to 100 % due to rounding

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Table 2 – Progress on Key Performance Indicators

Portfolio	KPIs by Traffic Lights									
	Green		Amber		Red		Completed		Annual	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Adult and Public Health Services	8	21%	21	54%	7	18%	0	0%	3	8%
Culture, Leisure and Tourism	4	33%	1	8%	2	17%	0	0%	5	42%
Children's Services	3	10%	2	7%	15	48%	0	0	11	36%
Neighbourhood and Communities	3	9%	14	43%	3	9%	0	0%	12	38%
Regeneration, and Liveability	6	18%	15	44%	3	9%	0	0%	10	29%
Finance and Efficiency	1	33%	2	67%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Performance Management	0	0%	2	25%	1	13%	0	0%	5	63%

*figure may not always add to 100 % due to rounding

3.3 Key areas of progress included: -

- The establishment of Jobsmart employment and skills consortium specifically targeted at the most disadvantaged wards and residents.
- The number of individuals trained to deliver activities within clubs and the community has exceeded the established target.
- Continuing to promote the development of employability skills and enterprise education in Hartlepool schools.
- The work to support Hartlepool as a Fairtrade Town continues with all targets exceeded. A sub-group is now working on publicity for Fairtrade Fortnight

4 REVENUE MONITORING 2007/2008 - SUMMARY

4.1 Details of the forecast 2007/2008 revenue outturn were reported to Cabinet on 21st December, 2007 and reflected the comprehensive budget monitoring exercise that was undertaken in October based on the first six months activity. At that stage it was anticipated that there would be a net overspend of up to £0.3m, which would need to be funded from General Fund Balances.

4.2 These forecasts were reviewed to reflect actual expenditure and income for the first nine months of the financial year and these details were reported on 4th February 2008. These forecasts

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indicate that in overall terms it is now anticipated that there will be a net underspend of £31,000, as detailed in **Appendix A** and summarised below :

Adverse/	Forecast
	(Favourable)
	Variance
	£'000
<u>Departmental Budgets</u>	1,460
<u>Centralised Estimates and Corporate Budgets</u>	(1,914)
<p>It is now anticipated that there will be a net underspend of £1.914m (£1.414m at Quarter 2) on these areas. The increase in this variance is owing to more favourable cashflows than anticipated, including the earlier receipt of capital grant income and the anticipation that the 2007/2008 Equal Pay costs will now be paid in next financial year. In addition, interest rates on the Council's investments have not reduced by as much as previously anticipated owing to the Bank of England's cautious approach to reducing the Base Rate.</p>	
<u>Collection Fund</u>	423
<p>The previous MTFS anticipated a 2007/2008 Collection Fund surplus of £0.2m. In practise there will be a deficit of £0.223m. Therefore, there is a net shortfall of £0.423m which can be funded from the underspend on corporate budgets.</p>	
Net Underspend	<u>(31)</u>

- 4.3 The budget position will continue to be monitored closely during the remainder of this financial year. As part of this work a detailed monitoring exercise will be completed on the basis of ten months activity up to the end of January 2008.

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5 REGENERATION AND LIVEABILITY PORTFOLIO

5.1 Performance Update for the Period Ending 31st December, 2007

- 5.1.1 Within the Regeneration, Liveability and Housing Portfolio there are a total of 42 actions that were identified in the 2007/2008 Corporate Plan. Almost 95% (40 actions) have either been completed or have been assessed as being on target for completion by the agreed date. One action has been identified as annual therefore no update is available at this point in time. Of the remaining actions, Table RL1 identifies one action for which a revised completion date is proposed for approval, and Table RL2 identifies one action (2.3%) that has been assessed as not being expected to be completed by the agreed date.

Table RL1 – Actions – Proposed revised completion date.

Ref	Action	Date to be Completed	Comment
Objective: To empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services			
SC03	Coordinate a review of the Community Strategy	Mar-08	The publication of the 3rd draft Community Strategy was delayed. It is now scheduled for publication and consultation in February 08 and a revised date for completion of July 2008 is proposed.

Table RL2: Actions assessed as being below target

Ref	Action	Date to be Completed	Comment
Objective: Delivering sustainable communities through protecting natural resources and enhancing the local environment and the community's enjoyment of it.			
EH02	Establish an action framework for Hartlepool Borough Council to address issues to tackle climate change	Dec-08	Due to other work pressures, notably the preparation of the new Local Area Agreement and Community Strategy Review there has been no further progress on this action.

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5.1.2 Within the regeneration and liveability portfolio there are 34 key performance indicators (KPIs) included in the Corporate Plan as measures of success. Of these, 29.4% (10) are reported on an annual basis. A further 61.7% (21 KPIs) have been assessed as either having achieved target or being on target to do so. However, there are 3 KPI (8.8%) that have been assessed as being below target, and this can be seen in table RL2 below: -

Table RL2 – KPIs assessed as being below target

PI	Indicator	Target 07/08	3 rd Qtr Outturn	Comment
LAA JE3	Employment rate (Hartlepool)	67%	66.3%	Outturn has not achieved target however the confidence level is +/- 2.8% and outturn can vary from 63.5% to 69.8%. The reduction in employment rate from last Sept is mirrored in national figures.
LAA JE4	Employment rate (Neighbourhood Renewal narrowing the gap)	63.60%	60.2%	The outturn is based on JSU calculations for the neighbourhood renewal areas continued good progress but will not hit target outturn.
LAA JE6	Unemployment rate (Neighbourhood Renewal narrowing the gap)	4.30%	6%	Outturn based on data for November 2007. Further progress in reducing unemployment achieved however unlikely to achieve end target. The announcement of a worklessness and enterprise programme, Working Neighbourhood Fund will assist in reducing worklessness

5.1.3 Key areas of progress made to date in the Regeneration and Liveability Portfolio includes: -

- Work in partnership to implement the local drug treatment strategy for all drug users.
- The establishment of Jobsmart employment and skills consortium specifically targeted at the most disadvantaged wards and residents.
- Pursuing strategic housing market renewal in partnership with Tees Valley Living, Housing Hartlepool and Housing Revival.

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6 CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO

6.1 Performance Update for the Period Ending 31st December, 2007

6.1.1 Within the Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio there are a total of 3 actions that were identified in the 2007/2008 Corporate Plan. All of these actions have been assessed as being on target for completion by the agreed date.

6.1.2 A total of 7 key performance indicators (KPIs) were included in the corporate plan as measures of success that are not reported on an annual basis. 5 indicators (41.6%) have been assessed as either having met their target, or being on target to achieve their target by the end of the year. Two KPIs have been assessed as being below target and this can be seen in table CLT1 below.

Table CLT1 – KPIs assessed as being below target

PI	Indicator	Target 07/08	3 rd Qtr Outturn	Comment
LAA CL5	Increase annual Leisure Centre attendances (Neighbourhood Renewal narrowing the gap)	56%	51%	Includes MHLC (55%), Headland (56%) & Brierton (40%). Brierton skewing figure & causing underperformance owing to predominance of club block bookings & lack of available genuine casual public access.
LPI CS2c	Number of concessionary members of Leisure Card Scheme attending the centres four times or more during the year	2,000	262	Quarterly figure down against target of 400 set giving an accumulative total of 1,318. Expectation is that it is now unlikely that we will achieve the target of 2,000 set for the year although new initiatives are being introduced in order to arrest this.

6.1.3 Key areas of progress made to date in the Culture, Leisure and Transportation Portfolio include: -

- A Headland tourism brochure has been published as a result of collaboration with Headland partner organisations.
- The number of individuals trained to deliver activities within clubs and the community has exceeded the established target.
- The GP referral 'Stay Active' health programme has been expanded.

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7 CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO

7.1 Performance Update for the Period Ending 31st December, 2007

- 7.1.1 Within the Children's Services Portfolio there are a total of 19 actions that were identified in the 2007/2008 Corporate Plan. Almost 95% of these (18 actions) have been assessed as being on target for completion by the agreed date. However, one of the actions has been assessed as not being on target for completion by the agreed date and was previously reported in quarter two update report. For ease of reference that action is shown below in table CS1.

Table CS1 – Actions assessed as being below target

Ref	Action	Date to be Completed	Comment
Objective: Be Healthy (Children and young people will be physically, mentally, emotionally and sexually healthy, lead healthy lifestyles and choose not to take illegal drugs)			
HC03	Work with partner agencies, young people, schools and families to reduce under 18 conception rate by 55%	Jan 2010	Hartlepool continues to have a traffic light rating of 'red' in respect of reducing under 18 conceptions. The rating is 2005 which is the latest data available. New data for 2006 will be available at the end of February.

- 7.1.2 There were a total of 20 key performance indicators (KPIs) included in the corporate plan as measures of success that are not reported only on an annual basis. 5 of these have been assessed as either having met target or being on target, but 15 (48.4%) have been assessed as not being expected to achieve the target agreed in the Corporate Plan. 6 of these KPIs were reported in Quarter 2 and as they are achievement indicators, they have not changed and therefore are not included within the table below. The remaining 9 indicators that are not expected to achieve target are detailed in table CS2, below :-

Table CS2 – KPIs assessed as being below target

PI	Indicator	Target 07/08	2 nd Qtr Outturn	Comment
BVPI 39	Percentage of pupil achieving 5 or more A*-G GCSEs	91	90.0%	Published in 2007 DCSF Performance Tables. Target not achieved. In line with national average. Strong performance compared to similar LAs.

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PI	Indicator	Target 07/08	2 nd Qtr Outturn	Comment
BVPI 41	Percentage of pupil achieving Level 4 or above in KS2 English tests	83	82%	Published in DCSF 2007 Performance Tables. Best ever performance for Hartlepool in line with national average. Best performing LA against statistical neighbours. Target not achieved.
LAA LL6b	Key Stage 2 - reduce the gap between children from NRS area and Hartlepool to under 5% by 2012 for those achieving Level 4 or above in Maths	4%	5.9%	Target not achieved and gap has widened from last year. Trend over time remains positive and still on target for 2012.
LAA LLS10a	Key Stage 4 - Reduce the gap between young people from the NRS area and Hartlepool to under 5% by 2012 for those achieving 5+A*C	8%	10.6%	Slight deterioration in performance from 2006 but 2012 expected to be achieved.
LAA LLS10b	Key Stage 4 - Reduce the gap between young people from the NRS area and Hartlepool to under 5% by 2012 for those achieving 5+A*-G (including English and Maths)	2%	6.9%	Current year target not achieved.
LAA LLS6a	Key Stage 2 - reduce the gap between children from NRS area and Hartlepool to under 5% by 2012 for those achieving Level 4 or above in English	4%	5.9%	Target not achieved and gap has widened from last year. Trend over time remains positive and still on target for 2012.
LAA LLS8a	Key Stage 3 - Reduce the gap between children from the NRS area and Hartlepool to under 5% by 2012 for those achieving Level 5 or above in English	8%	9.8%	Target not achieved but slight improvement on previous year.
LAA LLS8b	Key Stage 3 - Reduce the gap between children from the NRS area and Hartlepool to under 5% by 2012 for those achieving Level 5 or above in Mathematics	6%	7.6%	Target not achieved. No improvement from last year but on target for 2012.
LAA LLS8c	Key Stage 3 - Reduce the gap between children from the NRS area and Hartlepool to under 5% by 2012 for	7%	10%	Target not achieved and gap has widened.

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PI	Indicator	Target 07/08	2 nd Qtr Outturn	Comment
	those achieving Level 5 or above in Science			

7.1.3 Key areas of progress made to date in the Children's Services Portfolio include: -

- Continuing to promote the development of employability skills and enterprise education in Hartlepool schools.
- Best ever Key Stage 2 performance overall in 2007. Above national averages in both English and mathematics. Very strong performance when compared to similar local authorities
- Best ever Key Stage 3 performance overall in 2007 despite the DSCF targets not being met. Improvements in English, maths and ICT with maths above national. Strong performance when compared to similar local authorities
- Best ever Key Stage 4 performance overall. Headline 5A*-C indicator is above the national average for the first time ever. Compared to similar local authorities performance is good.

8 ADULT AND PUBLIC HEALTH PORTFOLIO

8.1 Performance Update for the Period Ending 31st December, 2007

8.1.1 Within the Adult and Public Health Portfolio there are a total of 24 actions that were identified in the 2007/2008 Corporate Plan. Two have been identified as actions that will be reported annually and of the others, 5 have been assessed as having already achieved target. The 17 remaining actions have been assessed as being on target for completion by the agreed date.

8.1.2 There are 39 Performance Indicators that are within the Corporate Plan for the Adult and Public Health Portfolio of which 3 are reported on an annual basis. Of the remaining 36 PIs, 74.3% have been assessed as either already having achieved their target, or being expected to do so. However, 7 indicators (17.9%) have been assessed as not being expected to achieve target, and these can be seen in table APH2, below :-

Table APH2 – KPIs assessed as being below target

PI	Indicator	Target 07/08	2 nd Qtr Outturn	Comment
LAA HC1	Life Expectancy Females (Hartlepool)	79.3	78.28 (03-05)	Mortality rates are not improving quickly

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PI	Indicator	Target 07/08	2 nd Qtr Outturn	Comment
LAA HC10	Mortality rate from cancer amongst people aged under 75 (Hartlepool) (per 100,000)	148	154.25 (03-05)	enough to meet the targets, and given the improvements in life expectancy generally the local and national inequality gaps are not yet closing. This must be seen as a long term project.
LAA HC2	Gap in Hartlepool and England Life Expectancy	2	2.85 years (03-05)	
LAA HC5	Life Expectancy Females (NRA)	77.9	76.4 (03-05)	
LAA HC6	Gap in NRA and Hartlepool Females	1.4	1.89	
LAA HC22a	(C29) The number of adults under 65 with physical disabilities whom the authority helps to live at home per 1000 adults under 65	11	8.9	Changes in eligibility (no longer providing services to those with Moderate need) has had effect on the numbers helped to live at home. This is still a high figure (top blob) but is not expected to reach the internal target performance at year end)
LAA HC22d	(C32) Vulnerable Adults helped to live at home per 1,000 population: older people	125	107.5	Changes in eligibility (no longer providing services to those with Moderate need) has had effect on the numbers helped to live at home. This is still a high figure (top blob) but is not expected to reach the internal target performance at year end)

8.1.3 Key areas of progress made to date in the Adult and Public Health Portfolio include: -

- A newly appointed officer is now working on Carers and Telecare projects
- The Supporting People Strategy has been updated, and additional services are being provided using short term funding
- Users and carers are more involved in social care developments and service evaluation
- More socially isolated people have employment, due to Disabilities and Mental health working with the Job centre

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- Community Services literature has been updated and made available in various locations across the town.
- Library Services are better targeted at groups and individuals at risk of social exclusion eg Alzheimers sufferers, Connecting Cultures programme.

9 NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO

9.1 Performance Update for the Period Ending 31st December, 2007

9.1.1 Within the Neighbourhood and Communities Portfolio there are a total of 17 actions that were identified in the 2007/08 Corporate Plan. All of these actions have been identified as having already been completed or being on target to be completed by the agreed date.

9.1.2 There are a total of 32 key performance indicators (KPIs) that have been identified as measures of success in the neighbourhood and communities portfolio. Of these, 17 indicators (53.2%) have been assessed as having already achieved target or being expected to achieve their target by year end. 12 (37.5%) are annual indicators therefore no update is available at the present time. The remaining 3 indicators (9.4%) have been assessed as not expected to achieve target, and these are detailed in table NC1 below: -

Table NC1 – KPIs assessed as being below target

PI	Indicator	Target 07/08	3 rd Qtr Outturn	Comment
BVPI 82d(ii)	The tonnage of household waste arisings that have been landfilled	3024.36	3008.55	SITA are currently commissioning a third line for the EfW plan which is hoped will address the issue of plant shutdowns and as such improve performance in energy recovery and landfill.
BVPI 84a	No. of kgs. of household waste collected per head of the population	480.08	411.58	Increase in greenwaste collection tonnages affecting outturn. Slow down in home composter sales also impacting. Further promotion and education to be introduced in partnership with Tarfield Nursery
BVPI 156	Percentage of buildings accessible for disabled people	38	3Q trend indicates that outturn is currently 32%	All works commissioned. Completed works require resurveying by Access Officer to inform situation. A number of properties have been removed from the schedule due to Service Department's reassessment of "open to public" basis.

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9.1.3 Key areas of progress made to date in the Neighbourhood and Communities Portfolio include: -

- Recycling and composting rates increasing. Municipal recycling options being progressed in Highway and grounds maintenance services. Street litter recycling initiative to be introduced shortly.
- Protocol and panel arrangements developed and launched for improving access to sustainable accommodation for vulnerable people.
- Doorstep recycling facilities have now been rolled out across the whole town

10 FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY PORTFOLIO

10.1 **Performance Update for the Period Ending 31st December, 2007**

10.1.1 Within the Finance and Efficiency Portfolio there are a total of 11 actions that were identified in the 2007/2008 Corporate Plan. All of these actions have been assessed as having been completed or on target to be completed by the agreed date.

10.1.2 There are 3 indicators within the Corporate Plan for the Finance Portfolio which are not reported on an annual basis, all of which have been assessed as being expected to hit their year end target.

10.1.3 Key areas of progress made to date in the Finance Portfolios include: -

- Community engagement programme to raise awareness and accessibility to financial support is being successfully actioned, embracing a range of new initiatives and organisations.

11 PERFORMANCE PORTFOLIO

11.1 **Performance Update for the Period Ending 31st December, 2007**

11.1.1 Within the Performance Portfolio there are a total of 36 actions that were identified in the 2007/2008 Corporate Plan, of which 33 have either been completed or assessed as being expected to be completed by the agreed date. However, 3 actions (8.3%) have

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been assessed as not being expected to achieve the target, and these are detailed in table P1, below :-

Table P1 – actions assessed as being below target

Ref	Action	Date to be Completed	Comment
Objective: Implement Pay and Grading and Single Status arrangements			
OD37	Implement Revised Pay and Grading Structure	Mar 08	Cabinet agreed draft pay and grading structure on 21 Dec 2007. Final decision expected from Cabinet in April 2008.
OD38	Implement revised Single Status Conditions of Service	Mar-08	Cabinet agreed draft pay and grading structure on 21 Dec 2007. Final decision expected from Cabinet in April 2008.
Objective: Implement the People Strategy and the Workforce Development Strategy			
OD35	Implement plans to Effectively Recognise, Engage and Reward the Workforce	Mar 08	Delayed until 2008/9 due to Pay and Grading review taking longer than expected

11.1.3 There are 8 KPI's included in the Corporate Plan within the Performance Portfolio, 5 of which are reported on an annual basis. Of the remaining three KPI's, two have been assessed as being expected to achieve their year end target. One KPI however has been assessed as not expected to achieve target and this is detail in table p2, below :-

Table P2 – KPI's assessed as not expected to achieve target.

PI	Indicator	Target 07/08	3 rd Qtr Outturn	Comment
BVPI 16a	Percentage of disabled employees	5.41%	5.25%	A number of employees with disabilities have left the authority recently and it is unlikely that these will be replaced by either new employees with a disability or employees newly declaring a disability before the year end

11.1.4 Key areas of progress made to date in the Performance Portfolio include: -

- Covalent, the Council's new Performance Management System is on target to go live by 31 March.

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- The ICT Strategy Review has been completed.

12 CONCLUSIONS

- 12.1 The report details progress towards achieving the Corporate Plan objectives and progress against the Council's own 2007/2008 Revenue Budget for the period to 31st December, 2007.

13 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 It is recommended that Members: -
- Note the current position with regard to performance and revenue monitoring;
 - Approve the revised completion date for the action noted in Table RL1
 - Take any decisions necessary to address the performance or financial risks identified.

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SUMMARY OF FORECAST REVENUE OUTTURN 2007/2008 (REPORT ED 15TH DECEMBER, 2007

	Forecast Adverse/ (Favourable) Variance Reported 15/12/07 £'000	Latest Forecast £'000
<u>Departmental Budgets</u>		
Adult & Community Services (1)	629	695
Children's Services (2)	445	227
Chief Executives Department (3)	46	0
Neighbourhood Services	262 to 502	442
Regeneration & Planning	<u>125</u>	<u>96</u>
Total Departmental Budgets	1,507 to 1,747	1,460

1. The increase in the overall overspend is owing to increased Older People Care cost (£150k), which have partly been offset by increased vacancy savings across the department.
2. The reduction in the overall forecast overspend is mainly owing to increased vacancy savings and increased income from swimming buy backs.
3. The previous range reflected the uncertainty of Car Parking income. These forecasts have now been reviewed to reflect activity for the first nine months (which includes the Christmas period) and a small reduction in the overall deficit is now anticipated.

<u>Centralised Estimates</u>	(1,100)	(1,600)
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As indicated in the Budget Strategy Report on 15th October, 2007, this budget is forecast to underspend owing to interest rate savings from using LOBOs and higher investment income on reserves and cashflow. As reserves are committed to supporting one-off commitments and future years budgets these trends will not continue, although they do

provide a one-off benefit in the current year. It was previously anticipated that this amount would be allocated to offset overspends on the Children's Services and Neighbourhood Services budgets and to establish an Interest Risk Reserve.

It is expected that interest will continue to be earned on reserves in 2008/2009 and a temporary benefit of £0.74m is reflected in the 2008/2009 budget forecasts.

Corporate Budgets

Strategic Contingency

(150)

(150)

This budget cover a number of ongoing corporate commitments including the costs of implementing Job Evaluation and the repayment costs of Prudential Borrowing. As indicated in the Budget Strategy Report on 15th October, 2007, it is anticipated that the costs of implementing Job Evaluation will be £0.3m higher than previously anticipated. There will be a temporary saving on Prudential Borrowing costs of £0.45m owing to capital payments, mainly relating to the Civic Centre Scheme, being made later than expected.

Provision for Increased Energy Costs

(300)

(300)

Since the 2007/2008 budget was set there have been significant reductions in energy costs. Therefore, the full provision included in the 2007/2008 budget is not expected to be needed. However, energy markets continue to be subject to significant volatility. This is particularly the case in relation to the electricity market, which has been affected by the recent closure of Nuclear Power Stations, including the Hartlepool station, owing to technical problems. These issues may increase electricity costs over the winter months.

Employers Pension Contributions Holding Account

(110)

(110)

A detailed review of the Employers Pension Contributions Holding Account was completed before the 2007/2008 budget was set. This review indicated that the income paid into the account exceeds the payments to be made to the Pension Fund. This position reflects variances between the actual number of employees/the value of the total pay bill and the assumptions made by the Actuary in March, 2005, when determining the Authority's Pension contributions for the period 2005/2006 to 2007/2008. A saving of £280,000 was therefore included in the 2007/2008 budget.

This position has now been reviewed to reflect the first six months activity. It is anticipated that a further saving can be taken in the current year. It is not clear if this trend will continue in future years owing to the impact of Job Evaluation and the current Pension Fund valuation. This position will therefore need to be reviewed when these issues have been finalised.

Designated Authority Costs

(55)

(55)

Details of the estimated Designated Authority costs for 2007/2008, which covers shared ongoing costs from the 1996 Local Government Reorganisation, have recently been provided by Middlesbrough Borough Council (which acts as Designated Authority). These figures indicate that the Council's share of these costs will be approximately £55,000 less than expected.

Planning Delivery Grant

(104)

(104)

As this grant is continuing in the current year a temporary saving can be taken. The position in relation to future years will need to be reviewed when the Government provides details of the 2008/2009 grant allocation.

Efficiency Savings

405

405

As reported in the summer a number of efficiency savings are taking longer to achieve than previously anticipated. It is expected that

the planned efficiencies will be achieved, although there will be a temporary shortfall in the current year.

Total Corporate Budgets

(314)

(314)

Collection Fund

0

423

The 2007/2008 Collection Fund Surplus has recently been determined in accordance with statutory requirements, which includes the timetable for completing these calculations. At this stage last year the MTFS anticipated that there would be a surplus on the 2007/2008 Collection Fund and the Council's share would be £0.2m. In practice it is now anticipated that there will be a deficit on the Collection Fund for 2007/2008 and the Council's share will be £0.223m. This position reflects a reduction in the Council Tax Base owing to the impact of a slower Housing Market, the progress on clearance and the Council's success in encouraging the take-up of Council Tax exemptions by disabled people and their carers. As a result of this deficit the overall impact on the 2008/2009 budget is a loss of resources of £0.423m (£0.2m plus £0.223m). It is therefore suggested that this amount is reflected in the overall 2007/2008 outturn to avoid an adverse impact on the 2008/2009 budget.

The MTFS anticipates Collection Fund surpluses of £0.2m in 2008/2009 and 2009/2011. It is currently anticipated that these surpluses should be achievable.

Net Forecast Overspend

93 to 333

(31)

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

14 March 2008



Report of: Scrutiny Manager

Subject: HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL'S CCTV
(CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION) PROVISION
SCRUTINY REFERRAL – SCOPING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To make proposals to Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee for their undertaking of the Referral from Cabinet into Hartlepool Borough Council's CCTV Provision.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the meeting of Cabinet on 22 January 2008, consideration was given to a report by the Head of Community Safety and Prevention that outlined the progress made in the development of a CCTV Strategy for the town.
- 2.2 Cabinet recommended at its meeting of 22 January 2008 that a scrutiny investigation should take place on an appropriate CCTV camera system for Hartlepool, with recommendations being presented to Cabinet in three months time.
- 2.3 At the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee of 8 February 2008, Members considered the Referral from Cabinet and agreed to undertake the referral into the town's CCTV Provision. Due to the time constraints until the end of the 2007/08 Municipal Year's work programme, Members agreed that an interim report would be produced and presented back to Cabinet within the three month time period prescribed by Cabinet.
- 2.4 Members also agreed that in-depth investigation into an appropriate CCTV camera system for Hartlepool would be carried out by the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum, as part of its agreed Work Programme for the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

3. SETTING THE SCENE

- 3.1 The CCTV coverage in Hartlepool is managed and operated by Hartlepool Borough Council and Housing Hartlepool on behalf of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership. The Community Monitoring Centre (CCTV Control Centre) building is owned by Housing Hartlepool, where the CCTV system is monitored 24 hours per day, 365 days a year.
- 3.2 There are over 70 CCTV Cameras positioned in various locations throughout Hartlepool. Some of these cameras have been in operation since 1995 and can be classified as either 'dome' or 'shoebox', with the latter being the majority classification for CCTV cameras in Hartlepool. Shoebox cameras have an oblong outer casing giving them the name shoebox. Shoebox cameras often, have a greater deterrent effect due to their visibility. Dome cameras have a semi – circular casing concealing the direction that the camera inside is pointing.
- 3.3 Many of the cameras are situated in strategic positions, covering the town centre streets, car parks and out of town centre shopping parades. Some cameras are also sited in residential streets and Council assets, such as Mill House Leisure Centre, Rossmere Park and New burn Bridge Industrial Estate.
- 3.4 The CCTV system in Hartlepool acts both as a deterrent to criminal and anti-social behaviour, but also as a provider of vital evidence for the Police and other enforcement agencies. More recently CCTV cameras have helped reduce resident's fear of crime.
- 3.5 There are a number of issues that have been identified in relation to the CCTV provision in Hartlepool that will need addressing before a CCTV strategy for the town can be finalised. These issues are listed below :-
- (a) The ageing cameras require increasing maintenance and repairs, which has an impact on the annual revenue budget. A request for additional budget allocation has been made for 2008/09.
 - (b) The monitoring arrangements are subject to a Service Level Agreement with Housing Hartlepool, which ends in March 2009.
 - (c) The current staffing capacity in the monitoring centre will be less effective if further cameras are added to the system.
 - (d) Rather than continuing to add more cameras to the system, cameras could be decommissioned or relocated.
 - (e) Technology continues to develop and therefore opportunities for more efficient / effective methods of utilising the current CCTV system may be available.
 - (f) The monitoring of other organisation's camera systems may reduce the cost to Council of the current CCTV provision. This option would not be

in line with the current Council policy of CCTV being maintained for the benefit of the community and not a generator of income.

4. OVERALL AIM OF THE SCRUTINY REFERRAL

- 4.1 To gain an understanding of the current siting and effectiveness of CCTV camera provision in Hartlepool and to make recommendations that will form the basis of a more in-depth enquiry by the Regeneration and Planning Scrutiny Forum during the Municipal Year 2008/09.

5. PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SCRUTINY REFERRAL

- 5.1 The following Terms of Reference for the undertaking of the Referral are proposed:-
- (a) To gain an understanding of the development of the current CCTV provision for Hartlepool, including the siting and rationale behind current CCTV camera locations;
 - (b) To assess the current effectiveness of CCTV provision in the Town;
 - (c) To examine good practice examples of CCTV strategies at other Local Authorities;
 - (d) To provide recommendations to form the basis of the Regeneration and Planning Scrutiny Forum's detailed investigation into Hartlepool Borough Council's CCTV strategy during the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

6. POTENTIAL AREAS OF ENQUIRY / SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

- 6.1 Members of the Forum can request a range of evidential and comparative information throughout the Scrutiny Referral.
- 6.2 The Forum can invite a variety of people to attend to assist in the forming of a balanced and focused range of recommendations as follows:-
- (a) Elected Mayor;
 - (b) Head of Community Safety and Prevention;
 - (c) Members of the Community Safety Forum;
 - (d) Cleveland Police;
 - (e) Cleveland Fire Brigade;
 - (f) Other Local Authorities with CCTV provision;

- (g) Local residents;
- (h) Housing Hartlepool;
- (i) Representatives of minority communities of interest or heritage; and
- (j) Ward Councillors.

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

(a) Home Office's National CCTV Strategy – October 2007:-
<http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/cctv/cctv048.pdf>

(b) Information Commissioner's Office's CCTV Code of Practice 2008:-
http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/data_protection/detailed_specialist_guides/ico_cctvfinal_2301.pdf

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY

7.1 Community engagement plays a crucial role in the Scrutiny process and paragraph 6.2 details who the Committee could involve. In particular, given the tight timescales for the undertaking of this Referral, Members may want to consider the most appropriate means for building community engagement into the enquiry.

7.2 In addition, diversity issues have been considered in the background research for this enquiry under the Equality Standards for Local Government. As such the views of local diversity groups will be sought throughout the inquiry where felt appropriate and time allows. Consequently, consideration has been given as to how the views of people from minority communities of interest or heritage (for example, people with disabilities, people with learning disabilities, people with mental health problems, black and minority ethnic people, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people), which may not be gathered through the usual community engagement routes, can be included over the course of the inquiry.

8. REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM THE DEDICATED OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BUDGET

8.1 Consideration has been given, through the background research for this scoping report, to the need to request funding from the dedicated Overview and Scrutiny budget to aid Members in their enquiry. At this stage no additional funding has been identified as being necessary to support Members in their investigation. Members, however, may wish to seek additional funding over the course of the investigation and the pro forma attached at **Appendix A** outlines the criteria on which a request to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee will be judged.

9. PROPOSED TIMETABLE OF THE SCRUTINY REFERRAL

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

14 March 2008 – Consideration of Scoping Report by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

19 March 2008 at 2.00 pm in the Sir William Gray Suite, Hartlepool Historic Quay – Nominations of up to two Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee sought to attend the meeting of the **Community Safety Forum** to gain an understanding of the effectiveness and operation of the current CCTV System in Hartlepool.

26 March 2008 at 4.30 pm – Site Visit to the Community Monitoring Centre in Hartlepool

w/c 31 March 2008 – Site Visit to gather evidence on a neighbouring Local Authority's CCTV provision, likely to be Middlesbrough Council – date, time and transport arrangements to be confirmed as soon as possible.

7 April 2008 at 5.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre – Additional Meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to receive evidence from the Elected Mayor, Head of Community Safety and Prevention and feedback from the Community Safety Forum meeting held on 19 March 2008 together with the Site Visits recently undertaken.

18 April 2008 at 1.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre – Consideration of Draft Final Report by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

28 April 2008 (Deadline for papers for 17 April 2008) – Consideration of Final Report by Cabinet (tentative date). Due to statutory deadlines the report will need to be marked 'to follow' and a holding report be produced for despatch with agenda/papers.

10. RECOMMENDATION

- 10.1 That Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee are recommended to agree the overall aim and terms of reference for the undertaking of the Scrutiny Referral into the Council's CCTV Provision as outlined in paragraphs four and five above.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (i) 'Scrutiny Topic Referral from Cabinet – Draft CCTV Strategy', Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, 8 February 2008.
- (ii) 'Draft CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) Strategy', Cabinet, 22 January 2008.
- (iii) 'A good practice guide for the implementation of redeployable CCTV', Home Office, 2005.

APPENDIX A

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

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

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

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

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

CABINET

17 March 2008



Report of: Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

Subject: FORMAL RESPONSE TO THE POST OFFICE LIMITED NETWORK CHANGE PROGRAMME

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee's formal response in relation to the consultation process for the Post Office Limited Network Change Programme.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 By way of background information, Post Office Limited is required to fulfil the Government's requirements of reducing the overall size of the Post Office Network. In practice this means that Post Office Limited are proposing to close a number of branches in Hartlepool, namely Elwick Road, Hart and Raby Estate Branches as outlined within their Area Plan Proposal for Cleveland with South Durham and Richmond.
- 2.2 As such the Council's approach to the Post Office Network Change Programme's formal consultation process has been twofold, firstly a Public Meeting was held on the afternoon of 29 February 2008 to ensure the views of local people were taken into account before any decisions are made by Post Office Limited and secondly, the involvement of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on the evening of 6 March 2008 to assist in the formulation of the Council's formal response to the consultation process.
- 2.3 This six week public consultation exercise, undertaken by Post Office Limited commenced on 12 February 2008 and closes on 26 March 2008. To enable the Council to submit a response to the formal consultation process by the required deadline, the views of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee are outlined hereafter in this report.

3. FORMAL RESPONSE OF THE SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

- 3.1 This response is based on the written and verbal evidence presented by a wide range of stakeholders to both the Public Meeting held on 29 February 2008 and the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 6 March 2008. Members felt very strongly that the Post Office closure programme for Hartlepool would have a severe impact on the community, particularly amongst groups at risk of experiencing social exclusion, including older people, lone parents, unemployed people, disabled people, carers, those without access to a car and those who find it difficult to access public transport.
- 3.2 For Hartlepool, the closure programme will lead to three branches closing in Hartlepool, namely Elwick Road, Hart and Raby Estate Branches as outlined within the Area Plan Proposal for Cleveland with South Durham and Richmond.
- 3.3 The evidence presented during both meetings illustrated that the three Post Offices proposed for closure provide an essential service to their communities and for many, Post Offices are a lifeline and without them many thousands of people will become increasingly isolated.
- 3.4 In support of maintaining the three Post Offices proposed for closure in Hartlepool, further information has been commissioned by the Hartlepool Partnership and is outlined below :

Raby Estate Post Office

- (a) The Raby Estate Post Office lies within the Dyke House / Stranton / Grange Neighbourhood Renewal area. There are three LSOA's within the immediate vicinity of the Post Office, all three are in the top 9% most deprived with one (ref ED1011956) just outside the most deprived 1%. There is a population count of 31,091 (23,487 Adults) within a one mile catchment area of the Raby Estate Post Office.
- (b) Car ownership within this catchment area is low at 36% compared to 44% nationally, this equates to approximately 15,000 people not owning a car within one mile of this Post Office. The next nearest branch is Middleton Road 0.5 miles from the Raby Estate branch, however this could equate to a two mile round trip to the next nearest Post Office, for people living on the outskirts of the one mile catchment area. In terms of households without a car within the Dyke House Ward; this equates to 54.8%, double the national average of 26.8%.
- (c) It is estimated that the average cost of a round trip by bus to and from the next nearest Post Office at Middleton Road is £2.00. To travel by bus to and from the Middleton Grange Branch would cost approximately £2.40. Access by foot to the next nearest Post Office would result in a number of people 'cutting through' the North Cemetery as the shortest direct route to the Middleton Road branch.

This raises issues of personal safety particularly for the more vulnerable members of the population.

- (d) Approximately 7,500 people (24%), within one mile of the Post Office, suffer from long term limiting illness compared to 18.5% nationally. There are 8,392 families living within the catchment area with 22 % of these being lone parents against a national average of 16.5 %. There is an elderly population of approximately 4,650 (15%), this measures against a national average of 16%. Working age population receiving Incapacity Benefits within the Dyke House Ward is extremely high at 35% compared to just 13.3% nationally.
- (e) The percentage of people having access to a bank or building society account within the one mile catchment area of the Raby Estate Post Office is lower than the national average (95 % against national average of 97.5%). This equates to a figure of up to 1170 people relying on the Post Office card account to access their benefits / pension.
- (f) Should this Post Office close there will be approximately 634 addresses over one mile away from nearest Post Office. Of these 634 addresses, 144 are from the Lower Layer Super Output Area E01012006 which is ranked as in the bottom 22.27% of most deprived areas within England (Index Multiple Deprivation 2007). However under both Employment Deprivation and the Health Deprivation and Disability Domain this particular SOA falls within the most deprived 10%.
- (g) The Hartfield retirement village which is scheduled for completion in 2008/09 falls within the one mile catchment area of the Raby Estate Post Office. There are 214 apartments and 28 bungalows within this development giving an estimated elderly population increase within the one mile catchment area of up to 480 people. There are also a further 98 dwellings under construction as part of the ongoing Middle Warren development. The retirement village and the new dwellings also fall within the one mile catchment area of the West View and King Oswy branches.
- (h) The Post Office is based within an independent retail store with four staff. It is likely that the store would close if the Post Office function was not retained.

- 3.5 In summary, the Raby Estate Post Office lies within a highly deprived area, closure of this branch would impact on some of the most vulnerable people within the community, many of whom rely on the services provided by this branch. Car ownership is extremely low in comparison to the national average with many people therefore relying on the local bus services to access the next nearest branch / branches. There are also concerns relating to the accessibility of the next closest Branch in terms of the shortest possible route on foot.

Elwick Road Post Office

- (a) This Post Office lies on the boundary of the Hartlepool NDC area and the Rift House / Burn Valley Neighbourhood Renewal area and covers areas within the 3% most deprived (IMD). There is a population count of 29,247 (22,117 Adult) within a one mile catchment area of the Post Office. Car ownership is low at 36% compared to 44% nationally, this equates to approximately 14,000 people not owning a car within one mile of the Elwick Road Post Office. Within the Stranton Ward this figure equates to 60.3% of households without a car. The next nearest branch is the Rift House estate branch 0.5 miles away, to which there is no direct bus service. The nearest branch on a bus route is Middleton Grange, one mile from the Elwick Road Post Office. The average cost of a return fare to Middleton Grange would be £2.00.
- (b) Within one mile of this Post Office, approximately 7,000 people (24%) suffer from long term limiting illness compared to 18.5% nationally. There are 8,190 families living within one mile of the Elwick Road Post Office, with 22% of these being lone parent families measured against 16.5% nationally. There is an elderly population of around 4,650 (16%).
- (c) The working age population receiving Incapacity Benefit within the Stranton Ward is 38.7% almost three times the national average.
- (d) The percentage of people within the one mile catchment area accessing a bank or building society account is below the national average (95% against 97.5%) This equates to a figure of up to 1031 people relying on the Post Office card account to access their benefits / pension, within one mile of this Post Office.
- (e) There are six care homes within the immediate vicinity of the Elwick Road Post Office with an overall total capacity of 132 people.
- (f) A number of concerns were raised by both Ward members and residents at both the Public Meeting and the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee with regard to pedestrian access to the Rift House Post Office (next closest available). There was a general consensus that the route would pose serious problems for the elderly and disabled in terms of both personal safety and distance to travel on foot as there is no direct bus service.

3.6 In summary, the Elwick Road Post Office serves many residents from highly deprived neighbourhoods. Many elderly people rely on accessing this Post Office's services and would face significant access problems to services should this branch close as there is no direct bus route to the next closest Post Office on Oxford Road (Rift House Estate).

Hart Village Post Office

- (a) The population count within a one mile catchment area of the Hart Village Post office is 2,898 (2180 adult population) This will increase on

completion of the Middle Warren / Bishop Outhbert estate. A further 315 dwellings are under construction or have Planning approval and will all be within 1 mile of the Post office. Evidence also confirms that there is also a strong customer base from the Bishop Outhbert estate as well as Hart village. Customers from the Bishop Outhbert area are driving approximately one mile to access the Post Office.

- (b) Car ownership is 52% compared with 44% nationally, this equates to 1046 people not owning a car within one mile of the village post office. The next nearest branch is the West View Post Office at 21 Brus Corner. This Post Office is 2.19 miles away from the Hart Post Office with an hourly bus service to and from Hart. King Oswy Post Office is 2.35 miles away and has no direct bus service to and from Hart.
- (c) The village store is also likely to close should the Post Office also close. Should this be the case then there would be no shop within the village.

- 3.7 In summary, should this branch close then the next closest Post Office is over two miles away with buses running at only one per hour. There will be no village shop within Hart which again impact on the more vulnerable residents within the village.

Post Offices and Partnership Working

- 3.8 In addition to the comments set out above that relate to specific branch closures, the MP, Elected Members, resident representatives, local residents and public sector partners all expressed concerns that Post Office Limited had not sought to have discussions with any key service providers in Hartlepool to explore alternative models of service delivery.
- 3.9 Hartlepool has an established tradition of strong partnership working across all sectors to improve quality of life for the borough's most disadvantaged residents. A number of examples of good practice exist where organisations share outreach facilities including joint work between the Police, Housing Hartlepool, Schools, Community Centres, the local voluntary and Community Sector and Hartlepool Borough Council. There is a strong sense of disappointment that the restrictive timetable established by Post Office Limited precludes partnership working to ensure that the most vulnerable residents are as less as effected as possible by the planned branch closures.
- 3.10 This restrictive timetable runs contrary to the Government's Code of Practice on Consultation that came into effect on 1 April 2004. The revised code has two main aims; to strengthen the commitment to providing respondents with feedback and follow better regulation best practice in developing policy options. The first of the code's six consultation criteria is:

"consult widely throughout the process, allowing a minimum of 12 weeks for written consultation at least once during the development of the policy"

- 3.11 Whilst it is acknowledged that there was a 12 week consultation period on the methodology of the closure programme, it is not considered acceptable that those most affected by the closures do not have the same amount of time available to consider the impact of the proposed closures on the locality and plan accordingly.

Conclusion

- 3.12 The additional information above outlines the precise impact of the proposed post office closures in Hartlepool according to profile of the local community and demographics. Such data was compiled during the limited time available of the six weeks formal consultation process to support their efforts to remain open. Should the proposed closures go ahead, many people who, in one way or another, will experience real genuine hardship as a result of the closures. Should this be the case, the Council firmly believes that Post Office Limited have a responsibility to its customers and would like to know what measures would be put in place to support individuals through the transition to closure process in Hartlepool.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet considers the content of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee's formal response with regard to the Post Office Limited Network Change Programme, to assist / shape the Council's formal submission to Post Office Limited by 26 March 2008.

COUNCILLOR MARJORIE JAMES CHAIR OF THE SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (a) Post Office Limited Network Change Programme's Area Plan Proposal for Cleveland with South Durham and Richmond.
- (b) Report of the Head of Community Strategy entitled 'Post Office Network Change Programme' presented to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 6 March 2008.