

# **NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA**



**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2005**

**at 2 pm**

**at West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue**

## **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME**

**MEMBERS: NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:**

Councillors Allison, Barker, Cambridge, Clouth, Cook, Fenwick, Fleet, Griffin, Jackson, J Marshall, Rogan, Shaw, Wallace, D Waller, Wright.

**Resident Representatives:**

Muriel Boreland, Dennis Brightey, Tommy Connolly, Jim Hastings, Ted Lee, John Lynch, Mary Power, Linda Shields.

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 3. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 4. MINUTES**
  - 4.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2005 (attached).
  - 4.2 To receive the minutes of the Police and Community Safety meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2005 (attached).
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**6. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 Draft Children's Centres and Extended Schools Strategy – Director of Children's Services
- 6.2 First Consultative Draft of a Children and Young People's Plan – Paul Briggs, Education Consultant
- 6.3 Statement of Community Involvement – Tom. Britcliffe - Regeneration & Planning
- 6.4 Cleveland Fire Brigade – Integrated Risk Management Plan – Cleveland Fire Brigade representative

**8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION**

- 7.1 Anhydrite Mine – North of West View Road – Director of Neighbourhood Services and Director of Regeneration and Planning
- 7.2 North Hartlepool Partnership Project Update – North Hartlepool Manager
- 7.3 Minor Works Schemes – Town Care Manager (Reports to Follow)

**9. RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE ISSUES**

**9. WARD ISSUES**

**10. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2006 at 10 am at West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue.

**11. ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN**

**WARDS**

Brus  
Dyke House  
Hart  
St Hilda  
Throston

# ***NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

**5<sup>th</sup> October, 2005**

## ***MINUTES OF THE MEETING***



<b>PRESENT:</b>
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Chair: Councillor Rob Cook - Hart Ward

Vice Chair: Vacancy (Resident Representative)

Councillor Derek Allison	- St Hilda Ward
Councillor John Cambridge	- St Hilda Ward
Councillor Sandra Fenwick	- Dyke House Ward
Councillor Mary Fleet	- Dyke House Ward
Councillor Sheila Griffin	- Brus Ward
Councillor John Marshall	- St Hilda Ward
Councillor Denis Waller	- Brus Ward

Councillor M Waller was also in attendance as a resident

**Resident Representatives:**

Mary Power, Linda Shields, John Lynch and Newly elected Dennis Brighty

**Residents:** Mr S Allison, Mrs Aggio, Mr J Cooke, Mr C Carruthers-Watt, Mr D Herring, Mr D Thompson, Cath Torley, Liz Torley, Alan Vale, Dennis Wilson and residents of 7 and 9 Hartside Gardens.

**Officers:** Dave Stubbs, Head of Environmental Management  
Karen Oliver, Town Care Manager  
Paul Mitchinson, Highway Services Manager  
Paul Frost, Traffic Team Leader  
Dacre Dunlop, Sports Consultant  
Pat Watson, Democratic Services Officer

**Police Representatives:**

Chief Constable Sean Price, PC Shelley Watson and Sgt Lyn Beeston

**Primary Care Trust (PCT) Representative:** Kevin Aston

**Housing Hartlepool Representative:** Anthony Scarre

## APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barker, Clouth, Jackson, Rogan, Shaw, Wallace and Wright. Also from Resident Representatives: Ted Lee and Jim Hastings. Also from Richard Turner

## 33. RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE ELECTION and RESIGNATION OF VICE-CHAIR

A Resident Representative election was held just prior to the meeting and Mr Denis Brighty was elected. The Forum welcomed Mr Brighty. to the Forum in his new role

The Chairman also announced the resignation of John Lynch as Vice Chair, although he would remain as a Resident Representative. The Forum thanked him for all his efforts as Vice-Chair and for standing in as Chairman when necessary over the period since June 2004.

Election of Vice-Chair - Votes for this position were cast by those Resident Representatives who were present. It was agreed that the remaining Res Reps would be asked to vote by post and the appointment would be announced at the next meeting..

## 34. MINUTES

(a) The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd August were confirmed.

(b) Matters arising

- (i) **Grayfields running track** – The resident who had raised the original issue of the running track indicated that the information given at the last meeting was not correct. Burn

Road Harriers had approached High Tunstall School who had advised that nothing was happening in relation to the planned track. The Club could not use Grayfields and the situation was causing problems for the Club, one issue being inability of the Club to recruit new young members as they have no facilities for them. DS agreed that the School need to contact the resident and the Club to advise on the up-to-date position.

- (ii) **Bollards Thorpe Street** – Following a long discussion on sea-coaling on beaches and related matters it was agreed that the bollards would be put back in place as soon as possible. – PM and KO to action.

- (iii) **Sale of alcohol to children** – Following discussion on this issue, with input from Councillors, Officers, the Police (about an imminent prosecution) and Residents, the Chair requested that this issue be put on a future Agenda and an Officer from Public Protection be invited to attend to assist in an informed discussion on the issue and bring information on recent and/or planned prosecutions.

- (iv) **Walk-about Bruntoft Avenue area** – gates still left open – fly tipping. KO advised that the area had been cleared up over a 3 day period but further tipping had occurred, the lock keeps getting broken off the gate. It was planned to get Ward Councillors round the table to discuss issues and

solutions. Members expressed disappointment and concerns about the cancellation of the original site visit and discussion took place on some Members views were of the view that Officers were not consulting Councillors to a sufficient degree. This was denied by Officers.

- (v) **Middleton Road crossing** request – A Dyke House Ward Cllr advised of a recent incident involving a child narrowly being missed by a car and urged that the scheme goes forward. - PM indicated that the scheme was being presented to the Portfolio Holder and if approved should be in place by Christmas.
- (vi) **West View Road (Central Estate) crossing** – KO reported that this scheme would commence in the near future.
- (vii) **Minor Works Scheme – Vane Street** - PM indicated that he would send the breakdown of costs to the Ward Cllr immediately following the meeting. (The breakdown was actually presented to the Member later in the meeting and the matter is ongoing)

### 35. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

**Speed Humps Speeding Drive** – A resident commented that the speed humps needed restructuring and the gradient was too steep. PF to investigate.

**Speed reductions outside schools** - A resident commented that this was needed. The Chair advised that 20mph

was being considered along with times of day etc.

### **Easington Road Speed Limit Revisions**

- A resident advised that the camera was still in place and there were problems on the road. The Chairman advised that the situation was being actioned.

Progress on Cleveland Road Crossing and Chicane near Phoenix Centre – Ted Lee, Resident Rep, had completed a question form to ask about progress. PF was dealing with these issues and would reply direct.

### **Re-siting of Doctors' Surgery to Headland**

– A Resident Rep raised the issue of transport for people from Clavering and West View. Further discussion on bus service (or lack of it), with input from Councillors, took place. Kevin Aston from the PCT updated discussion he had had with the Assistant Chief Executive about the Local Transport Plan and health related issues. Discussion was also to take place with Stagecoach. He agreed to keep the Forum informed and report back on consultation that had taken place. Members commented that urgent action was needed as the surgery would open soon

### **General bus service to Headland**

– Further comments from Members were made about the development of the area and the need for a regular bus service from all areas of the town. Further comments were made about the withdrawal of services following withdrawal of HBC subsidy. PF noted the comments. The North Hartlepool Partnership Manager advised that Stagecoach want to consult further and they will be invited to a meeting before Christmas. It was suggested that other bus operators be invited also.

**Signage at Marina Way for Hospital –**

A resident advised that the correct signage was now in place – he asked for the bushes to be cut back to allow one of the signs to be seen from the carriageway. He also mentioned that the ‘no parking’ sign in Miers Avenue was now in place and thanked Highways dept.

**36. MULTI-USE GAMES AREA STRATEGY**

Dacre Dunlop gave a short presentation on the current consultation on a strategy for Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGA's) in Hartlepool. A copy of the first draft report was handed out and those present were asked to submit their comments to Dave Stubbs by 24<sup>th</sup> October 2005.

Mr Dunlop gave a summary of the key issues as follows –

- The need for a co-ordinated and strategic approach to ensure a comprehensive and sustainable framework of facilities to meet identified needs, shortfalls and deficiencies
- The need to address the important aspect of management and use of facilities and to strengthen bids for internal and external funding
- The importance of addressing provision for young people in relation to the need for and demand upon open spaces
- The need to establish priorities to reflect local need/demand, shortfalls in provision, the Council's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and anti-social behaviour “hot spots”
- The preference for MUGAs to be linked to an existing or proposed facility (school base, Community Centre, Young Centre etc)
- The use of MUGAs to address issues such as health, anti-social behaviour, crime, social inclusion, neighbourhood renewal, community

well being and improving the environment

**37. NORTH HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP (SRB) UPDATE**

The North Hartlepool Partnership Manager, John Ford, provided a report detailing project updates for the following:-

- Street Lighting;
- Closed Circuit Camera – Spion Kop;
- Headland Environmental Improvement Programme;
- Carnegie
- Friarage Demolition
- Environmental Improvements to Key Residential Areas.

The Forum noted the report.

**38. THE ACUTE SERVICE REVIEW**

Kevin Aston of the PCT advised those present of the current consultation being carried out on Professor Sir Ara Darzi's report “Acute Services Review – Hartlepool and Teesside”. He said the consultation period was 23<sup>rd</sup> September to 23<sup>rd</sup> December and urged people to give their comments. He also gave information on a series of meetings to be held on the subject and said he would be happy to talk to other residents groups as required.

**39. JESMOND ROAD SCHOOL PROPOSAL**

The Head of Environmental Management advised that the results of Council's bid for funding in respect of the above was still awaited and would be reported to a future Forum.

#### 40. HART LANE SAFETY STUDY

The Council's Traffic Team Leader, Peter Frost, displayed plans and information relating to the above and advised of the up-to-date position and the options available. PF advised that this was the final phase of the consultation. The following comments/questions came from the Forum:

- A Member commented that there seemed to be no concept of left filtering included in planning;
- Residents commented that home owners in the area should be able to choose the option. Three residents advised the Forum of their problems, the majority of which related to deliveries being made to Tesco at 3am, 4am and 6am on a regular basis. Residents said they had been told that no big lorries would use the road but they do – one had gone in a wall and child was nearly killed. There was also a lot of rubbish in the area.
- A Member commented that Tesco should be made aware of the problem areas and be asked to take measure to alleviate the problems.
- A Member commented that audio/visual crossing points should be implemented on all new schemes.

PF indicated that the comments would be fed into the consultation process – any further points to be given to him following the meeting or in writing.

#### 41. UPDATE ON POLICING ISSUES

Chief Constable Sean Price gave a verbal update on current issues facing the police. He informed those present that in the last 12 months –

- Crime was down 7.5%
- Burglary was down 29%
- Robbery was down 39%
- Car Crime was down 30%
- Over 5 thousand people had not been the victims of crime
- There had been an increase in the number of arrests
- Budget savings of over £7million had been made without any job losses
- 98% of emergency calls are answered within 10 seconds, compared to 60% two years ago
- 97% of non-emergency calls are answered within 30 seconds, compared to 66% two years ago

However he said there was still work to be done and highlighted two areas of concern

- Violent crime was on the increase. He identified this as “low-level alcohol fuelled thuggery” and said one of the reasons for the increase was that previously it had not been reported. The Chief Constable cited the example of Operation Tranquillity in Stockton whereby licensees pay voluntarily for extra policing using officers on leave. This meant officers did not have to be pulled away from residential areas to deal with town centre trouble. He said he hoped to bring something similar to Hartlepool.
- Anti-Social behaviour. The Chief Constable said this was probably the biggest problem facing police at the moment. The “don't walk by” programme was launched earlier this year whereby officers would go to identified hotspots and remove the

core troublemakers in the group. It was hoped that by doing this the less troublesome elements would not be as inclined to cause trouble. The Chief Constable called on everyone in the community to get involved in the programme. He said every young person was someone's son, daughter, grandson etc and parents needed to take more responsibility. He urged those present to stop blaming everyone else and to try to work together.

The following questions/comments were raised:

- Request for Community Police in the St Hilda Ward/Central Estate;
- An issue was raised by a Member but as this was a personal issue the Chief Constable declined to answer in detail and said it would be best dealt with out of the meeting;
- Residents accepted that response times to telephone calls was good but actually getting Police on 'the ground' after was not so good; - The Chief Constable (CC) responded and indicated that the amount of time Officers spend on alcohol related incidents is too high and he wants to keep more PCs out on the estates;
- A Res Rep asked when Anti-social behaviour becomes crime – The CC replied - criminal damage, acts of violence through alcohol and use of drugs;
- A Member commented on the CCs statement that only 5% of the young people are committing crime and asked how that small minority could be dealt with. The CC said that's where the ASB Unit comes in. They get information about the young people, find ring-leaders, contact parents, arrange contracts and orders – working in

partnership with HBC. Hotspots are monitored and names and addresses taken.

- A resident asked the CC's personal view on why there is now so much ASB – is it lack of youth activities etc? The CC said some parents are to blame – young people need to be taught their responsibilities, etc;
- A Member reported that parties are being organised by parents when tags are taken off and the CC said he was disgusted;
- A Member and resident of the North asked the CC when he was going to reward the excellent ASB Unit and Shelley Watson by giving them the support they needed, in the form of additional officers etc. The CC said everything that Hartlepool has done needs much congratulations, ie the clean sweep, etc, however, rewarding by more officers and PCSOs would mean they would have to be taken from other places. Increases were not made last year because of costs but the CC indicated that next year hopefully more Officers would be redeployed to the front line – the District Commander would receive the CC's advice on this.
- A discussion took place on the imminent bonfire night and fireworks. The CC asked that anyone selling illegally should be reported.
- Praise for community police system and requests for more officers.

The public were asked to report all incidents of crime so they are logged on the system – either telephone or on the form provided for vehicle related incidents.



The Chairman thanked the Chief Constable for his presentation and for answering questions and said he hoped the CC would come back to a future Forum.

### 42. RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE ISSUES

CJC Chemicals and lower site near Barnshaw Bending – Lots of rubbish had been dumped, regularly. KO advised action would be taken where possible.

### 43. WARD ISSUES

**Cleveland Road Marine Engineering Site** – this was reported to be a dumping site with possible contamination and danger to teenagers and young children – action was needed. DS agreed this could be a hazardous site and agreed to investigate and keep Ward Councillors informed.

**Anhydrite Mines** – A Member understood that a report was going to Cabinet and he felt the Forum needed to know what the report said. DS advised it was to be an open report and Members would be kept informed. The Chair agreed and KO noted that this needed to come to the Forum.

**Charge of 51p per week re Gardening** – A Member raised this issue and indicated that he had a list of 100 plus properties where this charge was being taken fraudulently. He had requested Housing Hartlepool to stop taking the money until the contract was being fulfilled. A letter from the Council's Horticultural Officer (AC) was handed to the Chair and the Member asked for the taking of such payments end immediately, until such time as the tenants know exactly what services they should be getting and work was in place. A Scarre from Housing

Hartlepool (HH) commented that this was a contract between HH and HBC – the contract is in place and HH get reports back about the work carried out. He accepted that there had been some uncertainty about particular flats/areas/fronts/back and some tenants wished to take on the gardens themselves. He said the system was not the disaster reported by the Member. DS indicated that a Service Level Agreement was in place and completely refuted what the Member had said. Further discussion took place and the Member reported a specific incident which was replied to. The Chairman suggested that A Scarre carry out a Satisfaction Survey and this may be a way of sorting out the issue. He asked the Member to pass on the complaints he had received.

### 44. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- (a) North Police and Community Safety Forum to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2005 commencing at 10am at West View Community Centre.
- (b) North N'hood Consultative Forum to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2005 commencing at 2pm at West View Community Centre.

ROB COOK

CHAIRMAN

**WARDS**

Brus  
Dyke House  
Hart  
St Hilda  
Throston

# ***NORTH POLICE & COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

**2<sup>nd</sup> November 2005**

## ***MINUTES OF THE MEETING***



<b>PRESENT:</b>
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Chair:	Councillor Rob Cook	Hart Ward
Vice Chair:	Mary Power	Resident Representative
	Councillor Caroline Barker	- Hart Ward
	Councillor John Cambridge	- St Hilda Ward
	Councillor John Marshall	- St Hilda Ward
	Councillor Jane Shaw	- Dyke House Ward
	Councillor Denis Waller	- Brus Ward
	Councillor Edna Wright	- Hart Ward

Resident Representatives: Dennis Brightey, John Lynch and Linda Shields

Residents: E Barnes, D Black, C Carruthers-Watt, J Cooke, S Dickson, Sheila Halpin, Jean Lynn, Cath Torley, Liz Torley, Alan Vale and Hilda Wright

Officers: Alison Mawson, Head of Community Safety and Prevention  
Karen Oliver, Town Care Manager  
Pat Watson, Democratic Services Officer  
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: Inspector Peter Knights, Sgt Helen Bell, PC Steve Cranston and PC Val Marley

Fire Brigade Representatives:  
ADO Tony Dale, Derek Minton and Gordon Young

<b>1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</b>
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The Chair Councillor Rob Cook welcomed residents, Councillors and Officers.

<b>2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>
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Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sandra Fenwick, Sheila Griffin and Peter Jackson and Resident Representatives James Hastings and Ted Lee

### 3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2005 were confirmed.

There were no matters arising.

### 4. YOUNG FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION AND PROJECTS AND GENERAL UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

ADO Tony Dale and Derek Minton (employed by HBC Youth Service, seconded to the Fire Brigade), gave presentations and showed a video on the following:

Young Fire-fighters Association (YFA) – a scheme that gives young people from all areas of the local community the opportunity to develop, personally and socially, using the Fire Brigade as a positive role model. The aims of the YFA were outlined:

- To promote the Fire Service, to educate and increase awareness of arson, to highlight the consequence of hoax calls and fire safety at home and in the community.
- To offer Young Fire-fighters the opportunity to undertake the Fire Service Youth Training Association accredited B-TEC Development Programme.
- To promote the opportunity of delivering the fire safety messages to family, peer groups, the general public and all community partners.
- To assist in the promotion of self development both mentally and physically, whilst promoting self discipline, Social consciousness, community awareness and good citizenship.
- To foster the spirit of adventure and develop qualities of leadership amongst the members.

The YFA is housed in a new building next to Stranton Fire Station and courses are for 3 years, one night a week for 13 year olds onwards.

The video showed participants in the Local Intervention Fire Education (LIFE) scheme. The purpose of the 5 day scheme, for 13 to 17 year olds, being to provide training and development opportunities to young people who have been referred by various agencies. The aim being to encourage them to make the most of their physical and mental capabilities and to become more responsible, safer and caring members of their communities.

The culmination of the week's Life Skills and personal development course is the Passing out Parade and the presentation of their Certificates in First Aid, Fire Fighting Awareness and a Profile of Achievement by a Senior Fire Brigade Officer. The young people have an opportunity to demonstrate, in front of relatives and friends, the skills that they have learned over the five day intensive fire brigade experience.

The Fire Officers commented on the noticeable changes in personalities and attitude as the course progressed.

The Chair thanked Mr Dale and Mr Minton for the presentation and praised the fire brigade for running the courses. He said it was good to see young people getting involved.

### 5. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Inspector Peter Knights gave a brief presentation on reported crime figures July to September 2005. When compared with the same period in 2004 there had been a 5% increase in crime as a whole in the North Forum area. However there had been a drop in crime

in the Brus and Dyke House wards. A table showing the statistics for all the individual wards was circulated.

Inspector Knights introduced himself as the new Community Safety Inspector for Cleveland Police. He pledged to attend as many meetings as possible and urged the public to report any crimes to the police as this gave a true picture of what was taking place. Inspector Knights also drew attention to the dispersal order which comes into effect in the Dyke House area next week on 7<sup>th</sup> November. This is designed to improve the quality of life for the residents.

Councillors asked for detailed information on the crime statistics and were told these were not available at the present time. Inspector Knights explained the rise of crime by saying that previously officers did not record crimes if they were asked not to by the victims but now they did. He also said that increases in pub and club opening hours were also paying their part. He was reluctant to provide detailed statistics for individual wards as this would lead to a statistical discussion every meeting. The Head of Community Safety and Prevention said the crime figures were provided to give information to those present and local officers could come to individual ward meetings if residents wanted to look at them in more detail. However the Chair said he felt detailed statistical information should be made available to the Police and Community Safety Forums as not everyone went to the smaller meetings.

The following issues were then raised:

- A resident said dispersing people from one area would only move the problem to another. Inspector Knights said he was mindful of the effect but officers would step outside the dispersal zone if necessary. However

the whole town could not become a dispersal zone.

- The Chair asked which hours the dispersal zone would be patrolled. Inspector Knights said the hours would be adjusted depending on need and urged residents to report all problems so police would be able to respond as needed.
- A Councillor asked where gangs of children would be dispersed to as parents may not be happy if their children were moved away from home. Inspector Knights said this would depend on individual situations but officers would endeavour to send them home.
- A Resident Representative asked if there would be any improvement in police response times. Inspector Knights acknowledged that slow police responses were frustrating but serious cases had to be dealt with first. However he urged residents to report any problems as multiple calls about an area would lead to an increased police presence.
- A Resident asked if feedback to those who had reported crime could be improved. Inspector Knights said the Police Communications Centre had started a ringback system to victims of crime but Cleveland Police had had 200,000 incidents so far this year so there was a resourcing issue.
- A Resident asked if it was possible to remove alcohol licences from off-licence owners selling alcohol to minors? Inspector Knights said this was a matter for the magistrates and urged those present to report any incidents of this nature to the police so the matter could be taken to the courts.

- A Councillor asked if Hart Ward could be designated a hot spot and assigned warden patrols due to the 200% increase of violence against the person in the last year? Inspector Knights said he did not know if Hart would become a hot spot but there would be extra police patrols. He did not know if the violence was alcohol related but said violence against the person also included threatened or perceived violence as well as actual violence. Detailed information on the causes of violence against the person in the Hart Ward was requested for the next meeting. Inspector Knights explained this would involve police officer going through each individual crime report and questioned whether residents would want to sit through so much statistical information.

- A Resident enquired about follow-up procedures for victims. She had reported a crime four months ago and had heard nothing from the police. Inspector Knights said he would have expected officers to have contacted her by now and arranged to discuss the particulars of her case with her after the meeting.

- Residents enquired about the current status of Neighbourhood Watch. Inspector Knights said the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator had been taken ill recently and there was currently an interim Co-ordinator. Neighbourhood Watch was an important part of community policing and he was personally pushing for a full-time Co-ordinator. The problem was there were too many local Co-ordinators and the ringmaster communications system was flawed. The Chair asked if e-mail could be used as a communications device and Inspector Knights agreed to examine this.

- A Councillor asked if it would be possible to have more police presence at the Police and Community Safety Forum. Inspector Knights said people wanted officers at meetings and patrolling the streets and they could not do both. Another Councillor said he would rather see a drop in crime than have police officers sitting in meetings.

- A Resident Representative asked if it would be possible to recruit "civilians" to fill certain policing jobs to help with current staffing levels. Inspector Knights said this was already being done in the police control room

## **6. COMMUNITY SAFETY SECTION REPORT**

The Head of Community Safety and Prevention reported on the use of CCTV cameras in the town. A covert camera had been in place near Clavering shopping parade for two weeks and Council Officers were now holding discussions with the Anti-Social Behaviour unit on how to engage with the youths loitering in the area. The Chair asked if there were any plans to install more cameras there but was told there were not. However a camera had been approved for Spion Kop which was expected to be in place in the New Year.

A Councillor asked if statistical information could be provided to the forum on the benefits of having CCTV cameras installed. The Head of Community Safety and Prevention said she could bring information on cameras leading to arrests but not on whether these arrests led to prosecutions.

The following issues were then raised:

- A Resident asked if the Headland paddling pool camera was

operational. The Town Care Manager reported that it was and it had recorded incidents of vandalism during the summer months.

- A Councillor asked if Hart Ward would be allocated Community Wardens. The Head of Community Safety and Prevention said as Hart was not a Neighbourhood Renewal area they would not be eligible for Community Wardens under that particular scheme. Funding would need to come from elsewhere.
- A Councillor called for the use of CCTV cameras in successful prosecutions to be reported by the media. Inspector Knights said CCTV cameras were referred to in court cases and they were an exceptionally useful tool.
- A Resident Representative asked if the area around Carnegie Hall could have a speed camera or humps. The Chair reported that a survey was being done on the issue and the results would be reported back to the forum in due course.

## **7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

None at this time

## **8. ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

A Resident Representative drew attention to the continuing problems with motorbikes and fly tipping on Spion Kop. This was noted.

Councillors and residents questioned the telephone answering provisions at local police stations. Inspector Knights said if an incident needed urgent action it should be phoned through to the central office on

Ladgate Lane. The local officer number should only be used for non-urgent calls. Calls to the central office would be logged on the computer and so would not be missed. A Councillor called for more liaison between local offices.

A Resident Representative asked if there could be more positive news on the agenda for the next meeting. The Chair reported that the presentation given by fire officers was good news and asked if there was anything residents would like to see on the agenda.

A resident asked if a list of CCTV cameras in the North area could be made available. The Chair said this could be sent out.

R Cook

Chairman

**Report of:** Director of Children's Services

**Subject:** DRAFT CHILDREN'S CENTRES AND EXTENDED SCHOOLS STRATEGY

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## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek the views of the North Neighbourhood Forum on a draft Children's Centres and Extended Schools strategy (attached).

## **2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS**

- 2.1 The government's Ten Year Childcare Strategy published in December 2004 requires local authorities to develop Children's Centres across the borough by 2010. Children's Centres need to offer early education integrated with childcare, family support and outreach to parents and child and family health services.
- 2.2 In addition the local authority is required to ensure that a core offer for extended schools is in place by 2010. The core offer for extended schools consists of study support activities, childcare available 8 am - 6pm, parenting support and swift and easy referral to a range of specialised support services for pupils.
- 2.3 The draft strategy has been developed with a wide range of partners and stakeholders and sets out the process of ensuring these two requirements are met and brings them together in one coherent strategy.

## **3.0 ACTION**

- 3.1 The views of the North Neighbourhood Forum are sought on the draft strategy. Comments/issues should be fed back to:

Ian Merritt, Senior Education Officer, Children's Services, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY, (Tel. 01429 533774), email [ian.merritt@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:ian.merritt@hartlepool.gov.uk)

or Danielle Swainston, Early Years Manager, Children's Services, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY (Tel 01429 523671), email [danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk).

# Children's Services Department

*Every Hartlepool Child Matters*



## **CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

### **Children's Centres & Extended Schools 2006 – 2010**

#### **Draft Strategy**

Contact Officers:

Danielle Swainston  
Early Years Manager  
[danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk)  
01429 523671

Ian Merritt  
Senior Education Officer  
[ian.merritt@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:ian.merritt@hartlepool.gov.uk)  
01429 523774



# Children's Centres & Extended Schools 2006 – 2010

## Draft Strategy

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Council has developed a new draft strategy for the development of Children's Centres and Extended Schools. The strategy contains proposals for changes in the way we have previously developed Sure Start local programmes, Children's Centres and Extended Schools.

The Council wants to consult widely on these proposals. The purpose of this booklet is to explain the options which Hartlepool Borough Council is considering in the development of Children's Centres and Extended Schools.

**Sure Start local programmes** provide services for 0-4 year olds and their families in specific areas of the town.

**Children's Centres** serve children aged under five and their families. Children's Centres in areas of greatest need must provide:

- childcare with nursery education included
- a full time early years teacher
- health services
- family support
- a base for childminders
- access to Job Centre Plus.

In other areas Children's Centres will provide some of these services, depending on what is needed locally.

#### **Extended Schools**

By 2010 all schools will have to become Extended Schools. This means that all schools will need to provide a range of services and activities, often beyond the school day, to help meet the needs of children, their families and the wider community.

The Council's preferred option is to develop Children's Centres and Extended Schools services based on seven clusters. The clusters are based on groupings of wards and are explained in detail in this document. For rural areas, services will be provided on an outreach basis or using mobile units.

**This booklet explains the proposal and tells you how you can let the Council know your views. The deadline for comments is 16th December 2005.**

## **2. BACKGROUND**

Schools have been delivering out of school hours learning and a range of other activities for many years and are now beginning to deliver quality childcare. Sure Start local programmes have been established over the last six years and are specialists in multi agency working.

In September 2003 Hartlepool Borough Council Cabinet approved a Children's Centres Plan. The report included the results of a public consultation on the development of Children's Centres. The majority of responses to the consultation supported the proposal for the location of first five Children's Centres as detailed below. The development of the centres was based on old ward boundaries in line with Sure Start guidance at that time.

A Children's Centre is being developed in each area linking the sites below:

Brus Ward	St John Vianney Early Years Centre, Sure Start North, Rainbow Day Nursery
Dyke House Ward	Chatham Road Sure Start, Dyke House School and Brougham Primary School
Jackson Ward	Lynnfield Primary School, Playmates Neighbourhood Nursery and Sure Start Central Lowthian Road Centre
Rossmere Ward	Rossmere Way Sure Start Centre, Rossmere and St Teresa's Primary Schools
St Hilda Ward	Kiddikins Neighbourhood Nursery, St Bega's and St Helen's Primary Schools and Sure Start North

Progress to date on the development of Children's Centres includes the completion of all capital building work and the setting up of working groups made up of local organisations which are helping to develop services.

## **3. PROPOSED STRATEGY**

### **Potential options**

A small steering group with representatives from the Hartlepool Primary Care Trust, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust and Children's Services Department has looked at a number of options before deciding what to recommend as the preferred model of delivery. The options are set out below with the advantages and disadvantages of each explained.

### **Option 1**

**Children's Centres and Extended Schools services delivered in seven clusters within the three Neighbourhood Management areas (North, Central, South). Services within each cluster would be supported by a co-ordinator. Services would be delivered at a local level.**

### Advantages

- All children, young people and families will have access to services
- Covers all age ranges;
- More effective use of existing resources - resources will be shared across the town;
- Ensures that the core offer can be delivered without duplication of services;
- Schools will be involved in the cluster partnerships and help to shape services in their local community;
- Services that are needed by the local community will be developed;
- Reaches all areas of need.

### Disadvantages

- Sure Start local programmes will need to be restructured and this may mean changes for staff in Sure Start local programmes;
- Existing Sure Start local programme users may feel they are losing some services as services will need to be reviewed.

### Option 2

**Sure Start Local Programmes would continue to deliver Children's Centre Services and Extended Schools would operate independently. Services would be managed through individual schools and by organisations.**

### Advantages

- Good practice developed through Sure Start local programmes would continue;
- Staffing in Sure Start local programmes would remain the same;
- Children and families in existing Sure Start Local Programme areas would see no difference in the services they can access.

### Disadvantages

- Services only delivered in Sure Start areas which means some families cannot access services;
- Will not be able to develop Children's Centres across the town;
- Sure Start local programmes only cover 0 - 4 year olds not 0 - 5 year olds;
- Funding for Sure Start local programmes is only committed by the government until 2007 therefore there is not enough funding to continue Sure Start local programmes in the long term;
- Schools, community groups and the private sector may feel that they are not included as Sure Start local programmes will continue to run separately to other services being developed in local communities.

### **Option 3**

**Children's Centres and Extended Schools services would be delivered in areas North, Central and South. Services within each area would be supported by a manager. One manager would be responsible for working with all organisations across each area.**

#### **Advantages**

- Extends Sure Start model across a wider area;
- Involves Extended Schools;
- The Sure Start local programmes model would stay the same therefore staff in the local programmes would remain the same.

#### **Disadvantages**

- Difficult for one person to manage because of the number of organisations in one area;
- Difficult to manage the involvement of the local community across a large area;
- Manager would need to liaise with Headteachers and governing bodies regularly - this would be difficult because of the large number of schools in the areas;
- Manager would need to liaise with voluntary, community and private sectors - this would be difficult because of the large number of organisations delivering services in the areas.

## **4. PREFERRED OPTION**

Having considered all of the issues, the Steering Group decided that it wished to consult on all options identified, but that its clear preference was for Option 1.

The preferred option proposes that there will be seven Children's Centre and Extended School clusters based across the three areas, with services delivered direct to local communities. In addition there will also be mobile services for rural areas.

The cluster areas would be as follows:

North 1	St Hilda, Brus, Hart
North 2	Throston, Dyke House
Central 1	Park, Grange, Elwick
Central 2	Stranton, Burn Valley
Central 3	Foggy Furze, Rift House
South 1	Rossmere, Seaton
South 2	Owton, Fens, Greatham

The seven clusters have been decided using child population data as well as grouping of schools and organisations providing services to children and families.

For example, a group of schools in the North Hartlepool area have been working together for some months now, sharing grant funding and working together to deliver services and activities.

The area and cluster model would also support the delivery of a wider range of integrated services for the local community. This would enable a strong emphasis on prevention as services would be shaped and delivered locally.

### **Governance and Management**

The Local Authority is accountable for the delivery of the core offer for Children's Centres and Extended Schools. The strategy will also be monitored through the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and the Hartlepool Partnership. The Children's Services Department will be responsible for the management, monitoring and evaluation of this strategy.

Inevitably, this option if agreed would involve the dissolution of the Hartlepool Sure Start Partnership (formerly Hartlepool Early Years Development Childcare Partnership), the three Sure Start local programme boards and the constituted Children's Centre working groups.

The Children's Services Department will employ Co-ordinators to ensure effective service delivery across each cluster. Co-ordinators will liaise with headteachers and managers in all sectors and provide a reporting mechanism into existing management structures including governing bodies.

### **Timeline**

It is envisaged that this process will take place over two phases.

Phase 1: April 2006 – March 2008

- Sure Start local programmes make the move to become Children's Centres;
- First and second round of the remodelling of Extended Schools;
- Development of second round of Children's Centres begins;
- Introduction of Co-ordinators for all Children's Centres and Extended Schools Clusters;
- Development of Business Plans to ensure cluster activities and services are sustainable and mainstreamed where appropriate.

Phase 2: April 2008 – March 2010

- Development of the final phase of Children's Centres and Extended Schools in remaining areas;
- Remaining schools delivering the full Extended Schools offer;
- All government targets met.

## **Managing change**

Clearly this proposal to develop services in seven clusters will have great impact on some organisations, in particular Sure Start local programmes. Children's Centres and Extended Schools services need to be delivered across the borough whereas Sure Start local programmes focus on particular areas of the town. This change will mean that Sure Start local programmes will need to be restructured to ensure services can be delivered across the town.

A change management programme will be set up by senior managers within Children's Services to support staff from Sure Start local programmes through the change to Children's Centres. Clear communication is key to the success of this strategy as well as sensitivity to the impact of change upon individuals and their teams.

## **Participation**

The views of the local community particularly children and young people are essential to the success of locally based services. Cluster Co-ordinators will be set up groups of children and young people, parents and the wider community. These groups will help to decide which services are developed in their area. The groups will meet on a regular basis to ensure the services based at a local level are providing the services needed by the community.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

The Council wants to hear your views on the proposals to develop Children's Centres and Extended Schools services.

You can write to Danielle Swainston (for the attention of Sylvia Frain) Children's Services, Hartlepool Borough Council, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY or use the comment form at the end of the document. If you wish to email your comments please email: [cypp@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:cypp@hartlepool.gov.uk)

We look forward to hearing your views. **Please send responses by 16th December 2005.**

If you would like a copy of the report presented to the Portfolio Holder on 31st October 2005 please contact Danielle Swainston on 01429 523671.

Information gathered from all consultation events will be used to develop a final draft strategy which will need to be approved by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, Hartlepool Borough Council Cabinet. It will also be submitted for information to the PCT Executive and the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust Board.

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## **Some questions and answers in relation to the Council's preferred option**

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### **1. Why merge Children's Centres and Extended Schools?**

Children's Centres and Extended Schools guidance states

" The Government wants to see strong links between Extended Schools and Children's Centres."

The Children's Centre model in Hartlepool includes schools as one of the many partners. Schools who are Children's Centres are therefore naturally Extended Schools.

### **2. Can we keep the current Sure Start Local Programmes?**

The current Sure Start local programmes only cover 0 - 4 year olds whereas Children's Centres services must be delivered to 0 - 5 year olds. The local programmes also only cover a proportion of the town and the Government's Ten Year Childcare Strategy states that we must develop Children's Centre services across the whole town by 2010. Funding previously available for Sure Start local programmes will be reduced significantly as resources need to be distributed equally across the town.

### **3. What are the Sure Start principles?**

- Working with parents and children;
- Services for everyone;
- Flexible at the point of delivery;
- Starting very early;
- Respectful and transparent;
- Community driven and professionally co-ordinated;
- Outcome driven.

### **4. Can we extend the Sure Start Local Programme model across the town?**

The Sure Start principles underpin the draft Children's Centres and Extended Schools strategy. Services will be locally delivered and shaped by the community. The Sure Start local programmes cannot be extended across the town because the funding will not be available at the same rate as current Sure Start local programmes.

### **5. What impact will the proposed changes have on me as a parent living in a Sure Start area?**

Services for children and families will continue to be delivered and developed. Some of these services will be delivered by community and voluntary groups therefore parents will be supported by a wider range of people. All parents across

the town will have an opportunity to have a voice in the shaping of services through a forum in their local community.

**6. What will happen to existing Sure Start Local Programme staff?**

The Sure Start local programmes will need to be restructured beginning in April 2006. For staff employed by Hartlepool Borough Council a restructure process agreed by trade unions will be implemented. Staff will be involved in this process and have the opportunity to take part in consultation. A similar process is in place in the Primary Care Trust and senior managers in Children's Services will work closely with the Primary Care Trust to ensure the process takes place in conjunction with the Hartlepool Borough Council staff restructure.

**7. What will happen to previous Sure Start local programme plans and the previous Children's Centre Plan?**

If this strategy is approved it will replace the previous Children's Centre and Sure Start local programme plans.

**8. How can I get involved in the development of my local Children's Centre and Extended School?**

A co-ordinator will be appointed for each cluster area. The co-ordinator will set up groups for the community to attend. These groups will meet regularly. If you would like to get involved before the co-ordinator is appointed please get in touch with your local school or Penny Thompson, Children's Centre Co-ordinator 01429 284120.

**9. What affect will this strategy have on the voluntary and community sector?**

There is a strong voluntary and community sector operating in Hartlepool. It is important that Children's Centres and Extended Schools continue to work together in each of the cluster areas. The cluster co-ordinator will be responsible for working with the voluntary and community sector to ensure they are fully involved.

**10. What affect will this strategy have on the private sector?**

Services for children and families are already being delivered by the private sector. It is important that we work with these organisations to make sure they can contribute to Children's Centres and Extended Schools. The cluster co-ordinator will be responsible for ensuring that the private sector are fully involved.

**11. I am a teacher in a school and concerned about possible extra workload. Will I have to work extra hours?**

No. External organisations can deliver the services in partnership with the school therefore teachers will not need to work extra hours unless they choose to develop a service. Extended Schools will work within the framework of the National Workforce agreement.



**12. Will this strategy affect the school or nursery that my child will go to?**

No. This strategy will not affect nursery or school admissions.

**13. My child goes to a school that is becoming a Children's Centre and Extended School. Will this affect the education my child will receive?**

No. Children's Centres and Extended Schools are being developed to complement your child's education. Schools will offer extended services for families and the wider community not just children. Schools and the local community will have the opportunity to contribute to which services will be developed.

Services can be delivered by external organisations therefore teachers within the school will not need to deliver any of the services unless they wish to. This will ensure that teachers can concentrate on teaching and learning.

**14. What is the Extended Schools core offer?**

- A range of study support activities: sports, arts, music, homework clubs, etc;
- Parenting support opportunities, including family learning;
- Swift and easy referral to a range of specialised support services for pupils;
- Childcare available at least 8am-6pm, term time and school holidays;
- A "youth offer": a range of before and after school and holiday activities to engage young people;
- For secondary schools - Opening up ICT, sports and arts facilities for use by the wider community.

**15. What are the benefits to our school, as opposed to the wider community, of offering extended services?**

- Higher levels of pupils achievement ;
- Increased pupil motivation;
- Specialist support to meet pupils' wider needs;
- Additional facilities and equipment;
- Contributes to the delivery of the ECM outcomes;
- Enhances life chances for children.

**16. What are the benefits of Extended Schools to pupils?**

- Improvement in child behaviour and social skills;
- Greater parental involvement in children's learning;
- More opportunity for local adult education and family learning and parenting support;
- Greater availability of specialist support for families;
- Improved economic and general well being of families.

**17. What are the benefits of Extended Schools to families?**

- Better access to essential services;
- Improved local availability of sports, arts and other facilities;
- Local career development opportunities;
- Better supervision of children out of school hours;
- Closer relationships with schools.

**18. What are the benefits of Extended Schools to communities?**

- Better access to essential services;
- Improved local availability of sports, arts and other facilities;
- Local career development opportunities;
- Better supervision of children out of school hours;
- Closer relationships with schools.

**19. Is there any research on Extended Schools?**

There have been a number of studies on the impact of Extended Schools . Although it is impossible to summarise the findings of all the evaluation studies here, in general they have found that it is likely that Extended Schools generate benefits for children, young people and families in a number of ways, and that involvement in extended activities is compatible with maintaining high standards in raising pupil attainments.

**20. Where can I get more information about Children's Centres and Extended Schools?**

Further information about Children's Centres and Extended Schools can be found at:

[www.surestart.gov.uk](http://www.surestart.gov.uk)

[www.dfes.gov.uk](http://www.dfes.gov.uk)

[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk)

[www.teachernet.gov.uk](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk)

or contact

Danielle Swainston, 01429 523671 [danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk)

Ian Merritt, 01429 523774 [ian.merritt@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:ian.merritt@hartlepool.gov.uk)

**HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
DRAFT CHILDREN'S CENTRES AND EXTENDED SCHOOLS STRATEGY**

I wish to make the following comments on Hartlepool Borough Council's draft strategy for Children's Centres and Extended Schools.

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please return this form by 16th December to:** Hartlepool Borough Council  
Children's Services Department  
(For the attention of Sylvia Frain)  
Civic Centre  
Victoria Road  
Hartlepool TS24 8AY

**Report of:** Director of Children's Services

**Subject:** FIRST CONSULTATIVE DRAFT OF A CHILDREN  
AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

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## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to inform the forum of progress towards a first Children and Young People's Plan for Hartlepool.

## **2. First Consultative Draft of a Children and Young People's Plan**

- 2.1 Hartlepool Borough Council has responsibility, under the Children Act 2004, to prepare and publish a Children and Young People's Plan, in cooperation with individual key partners and partner organisations. The Children and Young People's Plan is to be the over-arching strategic plan that will cover all services available to the children and young people of Hartlepool. .
- 2.2 The main aim of the Children and Young People's Plan will be to ensure that all partners engaged in providing services for children and young people do so in a coordinated way. 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.

## **3 Consultation Period**

- 3.1 A first consultative draft of the Children and Young People's Plan was published on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2005 and the consultation period on this first draft runs from 16<sup>th</sup> November **until Friday 16 December 2005**.
- 3.2 Approximately 400 copies of the First Consultative Draft and accompanying Consultation Response Form have been sent to partners, partner organisations, Elected Members, schools, colleges and representatives of young people and their families.
- 3.3 The documents can also be downloaded from the Council's website and can be found at [www.hartlepool.gov.uk/childrensservices](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/childrensservices)

## **4 Issues for Consultation**

- 4.1 Section 7 of the first consultative draft of the Children and Young People's Plan begins to identify some of the emerging issues for Hartlepool in respect of the services for children and young people provided by the Borough

Council and its partners. Views on the content of this section and additional issues to be included are particularly sought.

## **5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 The Consultative Forum is asked to note progress towards a first Children and Young People's Plan for Hartlepool.
- 5.2 Individual members of the Forum are invited to raise issues, express view or ask questions by completing the Consultation Response Form and submitting it as suggested in the documentation.

**Report of:** The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services

**Subject:** DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the forum of progress in the preparation of the Draft Statement of Community Involvement and to seek comments on its content.

## **2. DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- 2.1 Hartlepool Borough Council has prepared a Draft Statement of Community Involvement, which sets out the Council's policy for involving the community and key stakeholders both in the preparation and revision of Local Development Documents and with respect to planning applications.
- 2.2 The Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) will form one of the first documents of the new Local Development Framework being introduced under the new planning system set out in the Planning & Compensation Act 2004.
- 2.3 Pages 12-15 of the Draft SCI explain how the Council will engage and inform the community during the preparation of Local development Documents. The Neighbourhood Forums are referred too on pages 13 & 14.

## **3 CONSULTATION PERIOD**

- 3.1 The Draft SCI has been widely published. Copies of the draft SCI were made available for public inspection at public buildings across the Borough. The statutory consultation period ran from **Friday 29 July 2005 until Monday 31 October 2005**.
- 3.2 Presentations were given by planning officers to various community groups including the Hartlepool Access Group, Communities Working Together and The All Ability Forum to target hard to reach groups.
- 3.3 In all, 499 companies, groups, individuals and statutory organisations were contacted to inform them of the Draft Statement of Community Involvement and subsequent consultation process, as were all members of the Council. While full draft documents were sent out to all Statutory Consultees, documents were available free to all on request. The document was also put on the Council's website and was in a format that could be downloaded.

- 3.4 A four page summary document was produced and sent out to interested parties and was circulated at group meetings. Finally a standard form was devised to provide formal comments for the SCI. This was sent out with the letters and documents and also available on the website.

#### **4 PUBLICITY**

- 4.1 In addition to the direct contact highlighted above, a public notice publicising the SCI consultation process was put in the Hartlepool Mail on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2005, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2005 and the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2005. A public notice was also printed in the Northern Echo on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2005. News items were placed on the Borough Councils website homepage on several occasions throughout the consultation period.

#### **5 CONSULTATION RESULTS**

- 5.1 In total there was 29 formal responses to the Draft SCI. 12 of these respondents were supporting the draft SCI and 11 were seeking to change part or parts of the draft SCI. Most of these suggested changes were minor in detail and will be easily incorporated. Changes sought by respondents included their organisation being listed as a consultee to detailed comments such as the use of technical language and the need for a more “town planning” focused title.

#### **6 NEXT STEPS**

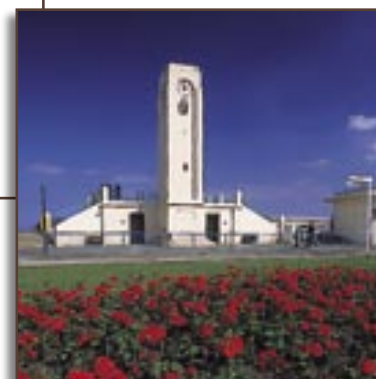
- 6.1 The Council's Cabinet will consider the representations to the draft SCI in December and decide on any changes to be made. Once the Cabinet has agreed any changes an amended SCI will be then submitted to Council for approval and then to the Secretary of State. There will then be a further public consultation period lasting 6 weeks and, if required a local public inquiry to consider any significant outstanding objections.

#### **7 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 The Consultative Forum is asked to note the progress in producing a Statement of Community Involvement for the Borough and to make any comments on its content.

# Summary of Draft Statement of Community Involvement

## 2005





# Taking Part in Planning in Hartlepool

## Summary of Draft Statement of Community Involvement



**The Government has introduced changes to the way local plans are prepared, under the new Local Development Framework. One of the main aims of the changes is to encourage more meaningful community involvement.**

As part of the new system, the Council has put together a draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

**This tells you:**

- how you can access information,
- when you have the opportunity to contribute ideas
- when there are opportunities to take an active part in developing proposals and options,
- when you will be consulted and can make comments on planning applications and on options and proposals for future development,
- how you will get feedback and be informed about progress and outcomes.

### Community Involvement in the Local Development Framework

The Council wants to involve you throughout the plan-making process, from the early stages, giving you a chance to influence plans when it is still possible to make changes. This is essential to achieve local ownership for the plans which will shape the future of the Borough.

The methods used to consult will be tailored to engage the appropriate parts of the community at all stages where involvement is relevant and of value. The Council want to make sure that all sections of the local community have the opportunity to have their say. Information will be made widely available via a variety of methods, including

- paper and electronic formats,
- at local authority offices, local libraries and on our web site,
- newsletters and the local press, and
- a variety of formats to cater for special needs.

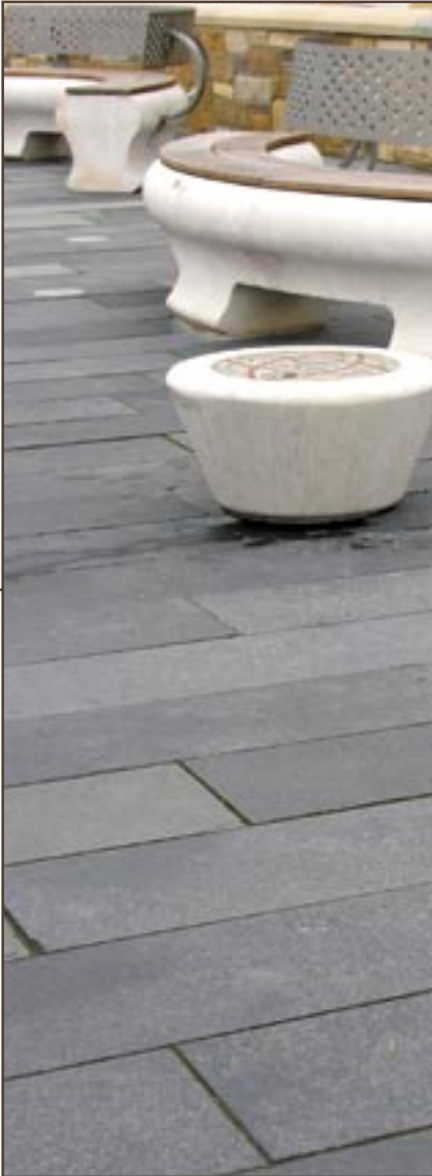
We are committed to provide feedback to those who participate in the consultation. In addition the Council will evaluate and learn from the consultation exercises, so that methods and arrangements can be changed and improved to meet your needs.

### Community Involvement in Planning Applications

Under the new system, the Government is keen to see developers working with the community on development proposals before applying for planning permission. The Council is therefore encouraging developers to carry out pre-application consultation with the community on major applications which may have wide-ranging effects.

Once applications have been submitted, the Council will use a range of measures to publicise and consult on proposals and inform interested parties of the decisions reached. The measures used will be sensitive to the specific circumstances of proposals and designed to ensure that all interested parties can be informed and involved.





### More Information

To view a full copy of the draft SCI, follow the website links at [www.hartlepool.gov.uk](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk) where a copy is available to download. Alternatively, you can inspect copies at Bryan Hanson House, Civic Centre, the Central Library and Branch Libraries.

If you would like your own copy, please contact the Planning Policy Team on 01429 523532.

If you wish to receive this draft in another format, e.g. large text, Braille, spoken tape or another language, please contact the Planning Policy Team by telephone on 01429 523532 or by email to [planningpolicy@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@hartlepool.gov.uk).

### Making Comments

Comments on the draft SCI should be made on the form available for this purpose. The form can be found at the locations mentioned above, be downloaded from the Hartlepool website ([www.hartlepool.gov.uk/planningandbuildingcontrol/planningpolicy](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/planningandbuildingcontrol/planningpolicy)) or can be sent electronically to you (contact [planningpolicy@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@hartlepool.gov.uk)). Forms should be returned by post, fax or e-mail by 31st October 2005 to:

Planning Policy  
Department of Regeneration and Planning  
Bryan Hanson House  
Hanson Square  
Hartlepool  
TS24 7BT

Fax: 01429 523532

Email: [planningpolicy@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@hartlepool.gov.uk)

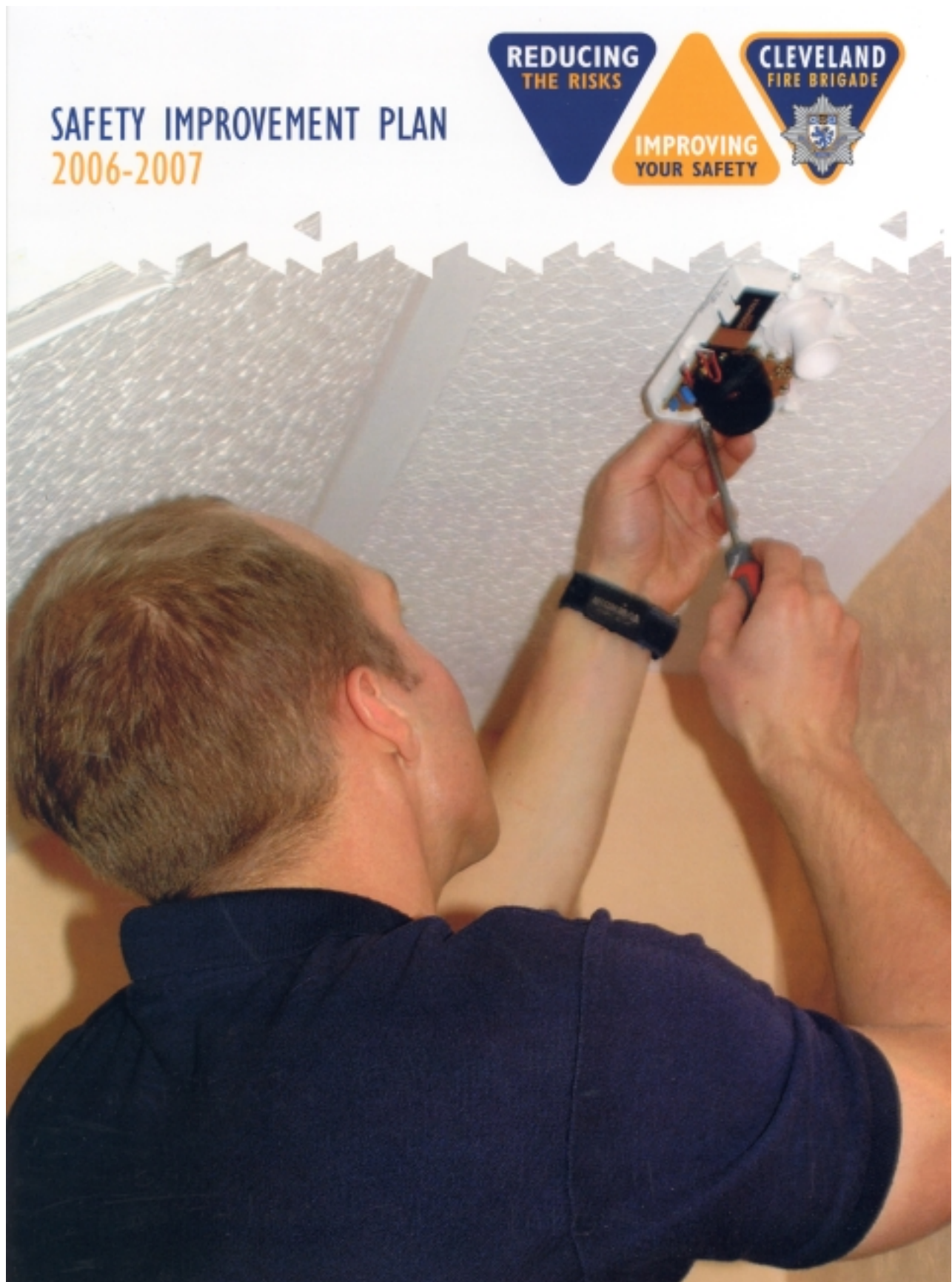


## **6.4**

A short presentation will be made by a Cleveland Fire Brigade Officer.

Copy leaflet and questionnaire are attached. Colour booklets and further information will be available at the meeting.





*The right people, in the right place at the right time*

## FIREFIGHTERS TAKE TO THE STREETS

At one time if you saw firefighters in your community you knew there was a problem. There was usually an incident - often life-threatening - and we were there to rescue people.

### THAT IS BEGINNING TO CHANGE

Today you are more likely to see firefighters out and about in the community working with people to prevent incidents from happening in the first place. It is all part of our plans to be the best when it comes to protecting our local communities.

A whole range of community safety activity is carried out in the following areas:

- ▲ Community Fire Safety
- ▲ Arson Task Force
- ▲ Youth Development
- ▲ Road Safety

Individual programmes which have contributed to a reduction in total fires of 27% include:

### HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKS

These offer a free home check designed to identify hazards, provide free fire safety advice and assist in fire planning. Carried out by trained firefighters, they frequently include fitting free smoke alarms. Since the programme was launched in June 2003, nearly 40,000 checks have been carried out. The brigade plan to carry out a further 25,000 checks in 2006-2007 if the improvements proposed in the summary are implemented.

### SCHOOLS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

This targets local children from nursery through to secondary school to discuss the role of the brigade, causes of domestic fires and preventing hoax calls. In 2002-2003 over 200 schools received educational visits and a further 100 were present at workshops attended by Cleveland Fire Brigade.

### FIRESETTING INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES

Firesetting Intervention Programmes are run by a professional team to educate children and young people from 3 to 18 on the dangers of playing with fire. To catch problems early, the team is invited into the home by parents who are worried that their children are playing with fire.

### LOCAL INTERVENTION FIRE EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Local Intervention Fire Education Programme is run in partnership with local youth development agencies. A one week intensive course, it is designed to develop the potential of young people.

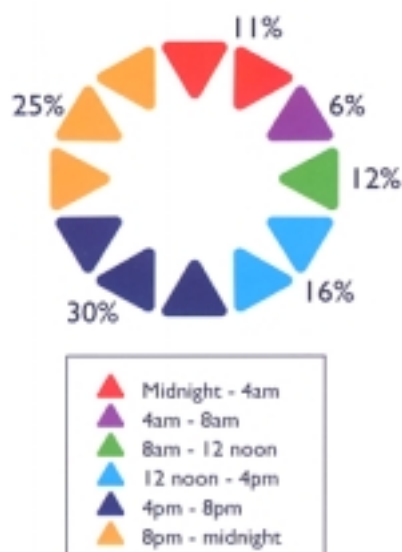
Programmes such as these - and many more - are delivering a safer community in our four local authority areas. If the Safety Improvement Plan is implemented the amount of time and resources dedicated to community work such as this will increase significantly while at the same time the Brigade will maintain its excellent response services.



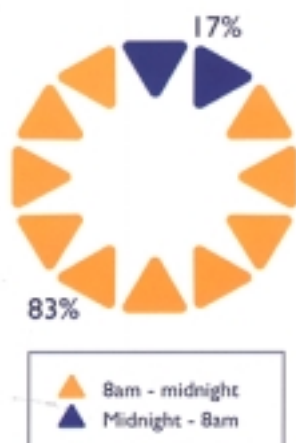


## SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENTS

Most incidents resulting in injuries and death occur in people's homes, yet our resources have traditionally been organised to respond to town centre and major industrial fires. The same number of firefighters are on duty around the clock, yet 83% of the occasions when our fire engines are called into action for emergencies are between 8am and midnight - the same time when we need to be out in the community educating people on how to keep themselves and others safe.



Number of times Fire Engines are called on for emergency response by four hour time slices.



Utilization of Fire Engines by time period

This is not the best use of our resources. We need to put the right people in the right place at the right time if we are to achieve our goal of making our communities safer. To make that a reality, we are recommending the following changes:

- ▲ Modify and improve standards of fire cover to provide benchmarks for emergency response which recognise the risk level in residential areas and provide adequate response to other areas
- ▲ By working with partner organisations and maintaining a strong presence in our local communities on fire prevention activities, we aim to reduce the level of fires which are started deliberately - currently, approximately 90% of all fires in the area are started deliberately
- ▲ In order to reduce the number of people who die or are injured from accidental fires, we are aiming to increase the number of Home Fire Safety checks to 25,000 per year. We will work with our partners in the community to provide safety services and will focus on those people and areas most in need

- ▲ Through our work with young people we aim to reduce the level of anti-social behaviour in our towns and surrounding areas. Through projects such as the Young Firefighters and LIFE (Local Intervention Fire Education) we will work within the community to develop young people's real potential
- ▲ We will prepare and provide resilience to our services and training for our staff to the highest standard so that they are prepared for emergencies at local, regional and national levels
- ▲ Specialist fire safety advice and enforcement resources provided to industry and commerce will be developed to ensure that sufficient levels of support are available when needed
- ▲ The health, safety and welfare of our staff is very important and we will continue to invest in further training to allow them to fulfil their role in providing safety in the community
- ▲ We will invest in support services to ensure that adequate facilities and infrastructure are provided to support community services and meet the local requirements of national projects
- ▲ In a bid to reduce the level of incidents involving road traffic collisions, we will work with our partners in the community to raise awareness of road and vehicle safety.



## PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTATION

### PROPOSAL 1 - COMMUNITY SAFETY SERVICES

**INFORMATION** - Cleveland Fire Authority has reduced the number of fires in the area however, there is still more work to be done. Further progress can be made by additional investment in prevention. Analysis of our current services has identified the capacity to reinvest resources of £1,912,745 to improve safety in our communities.

**OPTION FOR CONSULTATION** - Reinvest resources into the provision of improved protection and prevention services adequately supported by staff development, operational preparedness and sufficient infrastructure.

### PROPOSAL 2 - BENCHMARKS FOR RESPONSE

**INFORMATION** - The old standards of fire cover did not adequately address the life risk in our communities and disproportionately placed resources.

**OPTION FOR CONSULTATION** - Apply revised risk categories based on local life risk identification and corresponding attendance benchmarks for life risk incidents.

### PROPOSAL 3 - STRANTON STATION

**INFORMATION** - Combined utilisation of the 3 fire engines at Stranton Fire Station is less than that of the 2 fire engines based at Middlesbrough, Stockton or Grangetown stations. Cost per call is double that of Middlesbrough Station. Research suggests an optimum of 2 fire engines at Stranton Station. Response modelling shows a high cost benefit ratio for efficiency savings.

**OPTION FOR CONSULTATION** - De-staff 3rd fire engine from immediate operational availability but maintain the vehicle as a reserve. Re-deployment of resources equivalent to £693,308 or 24 posts (pending full costing).

### PROPOSAL 4 - HEADLAND STATION

**INFORMATION** - Headland Fire Station was initially provided to comply with the old standards of fire cover due to the dockyard areas which have now largely been redeveloped. The fire engine at the Headland Station is currently staffed on a retained basis i.e. (by firefighters who respond when required from their home or work place). But it is in an area that can be provided for adequately by fire engines from Stranton Fire Station. Current provision only gives emergency response and does not meet all the needs for risk reduction in terms of prevention of incidents in the community. The area would be better served by a community safety provision.

**OPTION FOR CONSULTATION** - Change of emphasis from response only at the Station to focus on prevention activities that address the risk in the area. Maintain appliance as a reserve and amend contracts to reflect new duties for staff as necessary.

### PROPOSAL 5 - CURRENT PROVISION AT THE MARINE STATION

**INFORMATION** - The Station area has a low frequency of life risk incidents and consequently lower likelihood of injury. Research indicates

this resource could be withdrawn without a significant change in life risk. Attendance times achieved in the Marine Station area indicate that fire engines from other fire stations can attend within the new proposed benchmarks for emergency response. It is recognised that the population of the station area is changing and the area is identified as suffering from higher levels of deprivation. The need for prevention work during afternoon and evening periods therefore remains relatively high.

**OPTION FOR CONSULTATION** - Change in the status of the fire engine to permanent staffing from 12.00hrs to 24.00hrs only. Re-deployment of resources into Community Safety equivalent to £412,389 or 14 posts (pending full costing).

### PROPOSAL 6 - CREW SIZES AT THORNABY STATION

**INFORMATION** - Incident performance information indicates that one fire engine is the optimum to meet attendance benchmarks for the Brigade; however Thornaby Station provides a reinforcing role for Coulby Newham and Yarm Station areas that currently have only one fire engine. The station also provides specialist emergency provision for water related incidents.

**OPTION FOR CONSULTATION** - We intend to adjust the crew size to a minimum attendance for 'life risk' incidents of 2 fire engines and 8 firefighters but emergency response times will remain unchanged. Re-deployment of resources into Community Safety equivalent to £227,480 or 8 posts (pending full costing).

### PROPOSAL 7 - CREW SIZES AT REDCAR STATION

**INFORMATION** - Lower utilisation of both fire engines for emergency response. The station provides a supporting role to 'low risk areas' and has industrial risks within the current station boundary. Support from neighbouring stations is influenced by its location.

**OPTION FOR CONSULTATION** - We intend to reduce the crew size to a minimum attendance for 'life risk' incidents of 2 fire engines and 8 fire fighters but emergency response times will remain unchanged. Re-deployment of resources into Community Safety equivalent to £227,480 or 8 posts (pending full costing).

### PROPOSAL 8 - PROVISION OF AERIAL APPLIANCES (HYDRAULIC PLATFORMS)

**INFORMATION** - The aerial appliances have not been used for rescues from fires in the last 3 years. They are occasionally used to provide fire fighting water, to rescue people trapped or injured at height and to provide safe systems of work for firefighters. The provision of these appliances needs to be balanced against the cost and maintenance demands. They are very expensive pieces of machinery which require special skills and training for staff. One of the 2 aerial appliances is approaching the end of its serviceable life and replacement by a similar appliance would cost approximately £750,000.

**OPTION FOR CONSULTATION** - De staff one hydraulic platform. Make arrangement with Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service for an aerial appliance to be available if required. Re-deployment of resources into Community Safety equivalent to £352,088 or 12 posts (pending full costing).





## BRIGADE PLANS BUILD ON SUCCESS

At Cleveland Fire Brigade our aim is to make local communities safer and better places in which to live - and our record proves that we are living up to that promise.

In 2004-2005 the Brigade helped reduce the total number of fires by 27%. At the same time hoax calls were reduced by 28% and road traffic accidents by 3%.

These improvements were achieved at a time when no extra resources were put into response services. Instead, we have focused on working closely with partners and local communities to prevent incidents from happening in the first place.

We have also concentrated on matching our resources to areas of greatest need, namely in those areas where people live. In particular, we have been active in developing and supporting projects working to prevent incidents in our most disadvantaged areas.

This is an approach which is working - and one which we are giving a further boost through our new Safety Improvement Plan 2006/2007.

The plan is designed to improve our performance still further, by moving resources into areas where they are most needed - out in the community.

The improvements, which are summarised in this document, are based on extensive research and years of experience. They are designed to match resource to risk. For example, we know that the lowest demand for our services is during the night, yet our operational staffing remains the same throughout a 24 hour period. This is restricting the amount of work we can do in carrying out Home Fire Safety Checks, educating young people on the dangers of fire, helping prevent arson and hoax fire calls, and our work with partnerships with all members of the varied community in Cleveland.

The changes we are proposing will release a substantial resource to work in the community during the day, helping to prevent fires. At the same time, we have been able to manage our resources in a way which ensures that our ability to respond to 999 calls does not suffer.

This leaflet summarises the improvements we would like to make, but we want to hear your views.



Protecting local communities

*Working with others to  
build a safer environment*

## HAVE YOUR SAY

Our aim is simple - to be the best fire and rescue service at protecting local communities.

To help achieve that aim the Brigade publishes a Safety Improvement Plan every year which it puts out to public consultation. This leaflet summarises the plan for 2006-2007. It outlines proposed improvements and is designed to encourage you to provide your comments on those changes to the Brigade.

If you wish to comment on the content of this leaflet, would like a copy of the full consultation document or require documentation in an alternative format or language please:

- ▲ Visit Cleveland Fire Brigade's website on [www.clevelandfire.gov.uk](http://www.clevelandfire.gov.uk)
- ▲ Email [IRMP@clevelandfire.gov.uk](mailto:IRMP@clevelandfire.gov.uk)
- ▲ Or contact Tracey Bell  
Cleveland Fire Brigade  
Headquarters, Endeavour  
House, Stockton Road,  
Hartlepool TS25 5TB  
01429 872311 ext 4113

### DURING 2004-2005 WE HAVE REDUCED...

<b>Total Fires</b>	<b>down</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Road Traffic Accidents</b>	<b>down</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Hoax Calls</b>	<b>down</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Accidental Dwelling Fires</b>	<b>down</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Deliberate Small Fires</b>	<b>down</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Deliberate Dwelling Fires</b>	<b>down</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Automatic Fire Alarms</b>	<b>down</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Deliberate Vehicle Fires</b>	<b>down</b>	<b>28%</b>





## WE VALUE YOUR OPINION.

Please consider the following statements and express your view by marking one box against each question.

A copy of this questionnaire is available on our website @ [www.clevelandfire.gov.uk](http://www.clevelandfire.gov.uk) for electronic submission.

## QUESTIONNAIRE

1. The programmes implemented over the last few years to prevent fire related incidents have resulted in the number of fire related incidents being reduced by 27%. We propose to build on this and increase activities for preventing fires and related incidents  
Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐
2. Research shows that the majority of incidents occur between 8am and midnight, the same time when we need to be in the community educating people. Currently, emergency cover is the same at all times. We aim to realign our resources to enable us to carry out more prevention based activity.  
Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐
3. Research has identified that the risk to life from fire is significantly lower in some areas than others. We will provide emergency response that matches this varying risk and increase resources for prevention activities.  
Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐
4. We plan to increase the number of Home Fire Safety Checks to 25,000 per year.  
Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐
5. We will increase the support offered to the most vulnerable members of our community through education and advice.  
Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐
6. Stranton. At the moment there are 3 fire engines at Stranton Fire Station, which are currently under used for emergency response. This is not an efficient use of resources so we propose to destaff the 3rd fire engine from Stranton Fire Station and redeploy resources into our Community Safety Programme whilst maintaining the fire engine as a reserve vehicle.  
Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐
7. Headland. The area covered by Headland Fire Station can be covered adequately by Stranton Fire Station within the benchmark response times proposed. We will maintain the resources at Headland Fire Station to focus on prevention based activities and maintain the fire engine as a reserve.  
Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐
8. Marine Fire Station area has a low frequency of life risk incidents, with a lower likelihood of injury and can be covered by fire engines from other stations within the new proposed benchmarks for emergency response. We propose to change the staffing provision for this fire engine so that it is crewed between 12.00 to 24.00 hours.  
Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐



9. Thornaby & Redcar: We intend to adjust the crew size to maintain a minimum attendance for life risk incidents of 2 fire engines with 8 firefighters but emergency response will remain unchanged. We will redeploy released resources to our Community Safety Programme.

Strongly Agree ☐

Agree ☐

Disagree ☐

Strongly Disagree ☐

10. Aerial Appliances. We currently have 2 aerial appliances (hydraulic platforms), both of which have been infrequently used in recent years. The cost of providing and maintaining these appliances needs to be balanced against the amount of times they are needed. We propose to: De-staff one appliance and maintain it as a reserve. Enter into a partnership with County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service to supply a second aerial appliance, if necessary.

Strongly Agree ☐

Agree ☐

Disagree ☐

Strongly Disagree ☐

Additional Comments

Please return this in the envelope enclosed, or return to:

Cleveland Fire Brigade

Freepost

NEA 10842

HARTLEPOOL

TS25 5BR



**Report of:** Director of Neighbourhood Services and Director of Regeneration and Planning

**Subject:** ANHYDRITE MINE – NORTH OF WEST VIEW ROAD

---

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Members of the North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum regarding the recent Anhydrite Mine report considered by Cabinet on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2005.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Council commissioned Bullen Consultants in 2001 to undertake an investigation into the Anhydrite mine situated to the north of West View Road. This investigation was grant funded by English Partnerships through the Land Stabilisation Programme.
- 2.2 The Consultant reported that further investigation work was required in order to:-
- Assess the extent and condition of the mine
  - Evaluate the risks from the mine-workings in the light of current and future land use
  - Evaluate the need for further monitoring
  - Provide costed options for any treatment including justification and calculations for any volumes used.
- 2.3 The further proposals were accepted for funding by English Partnerships, however they have advised that all available funding has been allocated to other projects up to 2006 when the funding regime is due to end.
- 2.4 Cabinet considered the attached report (contained in Appendix 1) and agreed that full Council should consider the issue, on 15 December 2005, in line with other competing demands for funding. Cabinet did not make any specific recommendation to Council on this matter.
- 2.5 Letters have been sent to both English Partnerships and ODPM urging them to continue with the Land Stabilisation Programme and provide the funds to continue the investigation.

- 2.6 The Council's civil engineering framework consultant, White Young Green are assessing the risk of delaying the further investigation work and will provide a report before the full Council meeting.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Forum note the report.

APPENDIX 1 – CABINET REPORT

# CABINET REPORT

24 October 2005



**Joint Report of:** Director of Neighbourhood Services and Director of Regeneration and Planning

**Subject:** ANHYDRITE MINE – ONGOING INVESTIGATION

---

## SUMMARY

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet on the current position in respect of the anhydrite mine-workings investigation including reference to planning applications.
- 1.2 To inform Cabinet of the Consultants recommendations for further investigation and monitoring work in order to formulate a clearer long-term understanding of the mine.
- 1.3 To seek Cabinet's view regarding the available options for progressing this work.

### 2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

- 2.1 A short history and background of the Anhydrite Mine operations including details of the investigations already carried out and the recommendation for further investigation work to assess stability of the workings and their potential zone of influence.

### 3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

- 3.1 The Council own the majority of the land under which the mine is situated.

### 4. TYPE OF DECISION

- 4.1 It is a key decision. Test (i) applies.

**5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE**

5.1 Cabinet on 24 October 2005.

**6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED**

6.1 That Cabinet agree to the need to continue the investigation of the anhydrite mine and request Council to approve inclusion of costs of up to £780,000 in the capital programme as a departure from the budget and policy framework.



**Joint Report of:** Director of Neighbourhood Services and Director of Regeneration and Planning

**Subject:** ANHYDRITE MINE - ONGOING INVESTIGATION

---

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet on the current position in respect of the anhydrite mine-workings investigation including reference to planning applications.
- 1.2 To inform Cabinet of the Consultants recommendations for further investigation and monitoring work in order to formulate a clearer long-term understanding of the area.
- 1.3 To seek Cabinet's view regarding the available options for progressing this work.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 A short history of the mine and its operation is as follows:
  - (i) The mine was worked over a period of time between 1923 and 1930 when the mine was abandoned.
  - (ii) The mine was worked at four levels between 32m and 62m below ground with tunnel drives at right angles on a square grid pattern over the whole area to win the anhydrite rock. (As shown in the plan contained in appendix 1)
  - (iii) To maximise rock production these levels were possibly broken through in some areas leaving 'rooms' 29m high by 6m wide running the length of the drives. In all areas the roof slab and pillars support the 30m deep overburden soil. The roof slab is approximately 1.5m thick and the pillars originally about 10m square and 6m high.
  - (iv) Since it was decommissioned the mine will have been flooded with a combination of ground water and seawater which could cause erosion.
  - (v) In 1948 the Borough Council purchased the land bounding the majority of the 'footprint' of the workings below ground.

## Appendix 1 – 7.1

- (vi) Since 1948, the Council has attempted to obtain funding support from various central government funding regimes to carry out detailed investigation of the extent, location, condition, potential for collapse, and subsequent extent of damage and zone of influence of the workings.
  - (vii) Following a successful application to English Partnerships for funding under the Land Stabilisation Programme, Bullen Consultants were commissioned in 2000 (under competitive tender) to provide specialist geotechnical consultancy services to:
    - identify and review existing relevant data;
    - carry out a site investigation to enable a preliminary assessment to be made regarding the condition and rate of deterioration of the workings;
    - present conclusions and/or recommendations for further work.
- 2.2 Bullens produced a desk study report in September 2000 which provided the basis for planning the site investigation. They further produced a Geotechnical Interpretative Report in May 2001 based on the data obtained from the preliminary site investigation. This report concluded that from the preliminary investigation the mine did not appear to be in danger of immediate collapse and the mine plans appeared to be of reasonable accuracy. Additionally, it concluded that provided further investigation is carried out to confirm assumptions made, it may be possible to demonstrate that the mine is, and is likely to, remain stable.
- 2.3 In order to provide support for an application for funding for the above, Bullens wrote a Geotechnical Risk Assessment Report in February 2002 which provided details describing the information required to confirm the assumptions made and recommended further investigation to determine:-
- the geometry and composition of the crown pillars, roof and mine boundary in critical areas to complete the assessment of stability;
  - the level and chemical composition of the minewater;
  - the geotechnical properties of the overburden soil present above the mineworkings.
- 2.4 The report went on to develop risk zones showing the areas that could be affected in the unlikely event of a collapse of part of the mine workings.

## Appendix 1 – 7.1

2.5 The government body that is responsible for the Land Stabilisation Programme is English Partnerships. Bullens Geotechnical Risk Assessment was reported to English Partnerships together with an application to cover the cost of the further investigation and consultancy work. This application was made in 2004 and tailored toward the requirements of the funding regime following detailed protracted negotiations between English Partnerships, their consultant White Young Green, the Council and Bullens. English Partnerships advised in their formal response that whilst the submission met the technical criteria, all available funding had been allocated to other projects up to 2006 when the funding regime is due to end.

2.6 The timescale has been further elongated due to English Partnerships uncertainty surrounding the provision of central government funding for the regime post 2006. Even if the funding regime is continued at present levels there are 11 local authorities in this predicament and English Partnerships have advised that they will attempt to prioritise approvals as funds become available, but could provide no timescale for future funding availability.

2.7 The further investigations proposed by Bullens are:

- drilling, sampling and testing the roof slab and overburden soils;
- undertaking an accurate survey of the cavity with emphasis placed on the critical areas;
- undertaking micro seismic monitoring to listen to any activity occurring anywhere within the mine;
- sample, test and analyse the groundwater chemistry.

The consultants recommend that all of these elements are necessary to provide a comprehensive indication of the nature of any risk. Officers, however, are taking further advice particularly on the micro seismic monitoring element of this.

2.8 In addition to the above, the report found that the mineshaft was filled with unconsolidated material. The report therefore recommended that a concrete cap be provided to the mineshaft.

2.9 Following the proposed further site investigation an interpretative report would be prepared which would:

- assess the extent and condition of the mine;
- evaluate the risks from the mineworkings in the light of current and future land use;

- evaluate the need for further monitoring;
- provide costed options for any remediation should it be advised.

### **3. PLANNING ISSUES**

- 3.1 Recently, two planning applications for extensions to properties in Vincent Street and Brunel Close have been received. Another application for the redevelopment of the Britmag works has also been received. All of these are outside the site of the mine itself but still possibly fall within a zone that the mine workings could influence.
- 3.2 As a consequence of these applications further advice has been sought from Bullens. They suggest that they cannot provide a definitive view at this stage.
- 3.3 Given this advice it is the planning officers' view that it would be premature to determine these applications until further investigations into long-term ground stability have been concluded. Officers will seek the applicants' agreement to defer the consideration of the applications.
- 3.4 This adds weight to the need to establish the nature and extent of any risks that may be associated with the former mine workings.

### **4. OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Letters have been sent to both English Partnerships and DEFRA with copies sent to the Member of Parliament urging that the Land Stabilisation Programme is continued so that the Council can benefit from it.
- 4.2 The options available are:
- that the Council waits (as indicated in paragraph 2.6 above) to be prioritised, but there has been little encouragement from government sources that any funding is imminent or that this scheme would be given the highest priority, or
  - that the Council progresses the investigation and mineshaft capping (as described in paragraph 2.7 and 2.8) independently of central government at an estimated cost of up to £780k including fees (a breakdown of potential costs is shown in Appendix 2). At the time of writing the report officers are still challenging some of these costs and a verbal update will be given at the meeting if it is available. Competitively tendering the site investigation work plus mineshaft capping and awarding the consultancy work through existing arrangements could achieve this further investigation. If approval was given to this option, contract documentation can be prepared and the site investigation tendered and awarded with a start on site early January 2006. Preliminary outputs of the investigation would therefore be expected in June 2006.

## Appendix 1 – 7.1

- 4.3 Progressing this option would mean the Council bearing the full cost of the work and as yet there is no budget allocation whatsoever for this expenditure. A decision to incur expenditure on further investigation at a cost such as that outlined in this report would be a departure from the Council's budget and as such would need to be referred to the Council for approval for inclusion in the capital programme.
- 4.4 Once the investigation has been undertaken it is thought that there would be little opportunity for claiming retrospective funding from English Partnerships should finance become available although officers are pursuing this with English Partnerships and DEFRA.

### 5. FINANCIAL OPTIONS

- 5.1 The costs of undertaking further investigation works will be phased over this financial year and 2006/07, with the majority of costs falling in 2006/07. For practical reasons it is necessary to secure funding for the whole of these costs within the capital programme to enable a contract to be awarded. There are two options for funding these costs:
- Option 1 – Use Prudential Borrowing – this option would increase the Council's revenue costs by approximately £70,000 per year from 2007/08;
  - Option 2 – Use Reserves – as part of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee's review of reserves it has been suggested that the Coast Defences Reserve of £1.598m may not be needed. A final decision on whether this reserve needs to be maintained will depend on the outcome of the Coastal Defences strategy report which will be completed shortly. If these resources are not needed for Coastal Defences the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee has suggested that these resources be transferred to the General Fund. These resources could then be used to either support the revenue budget, or to meet one off costs, such as the cost of investigating the Anhydrite Mine.
- 5.2 Whilst Option 2 will avoid an additional unbudgeted revenue pressure from 2007/08 it is not the optimum use of the Council's financial reserves in the current financial climate. In addition, using these resources will reduce the Council's case for seeking retrospective funding from the Government if additional funding becomes available. Therefore, it is proposed that the cost of these works be funded from Prudential Borrowing. In the event that the Council's overall financial position improves Prudential Borrowing could be repaid to reduce ongoing revenue costs.

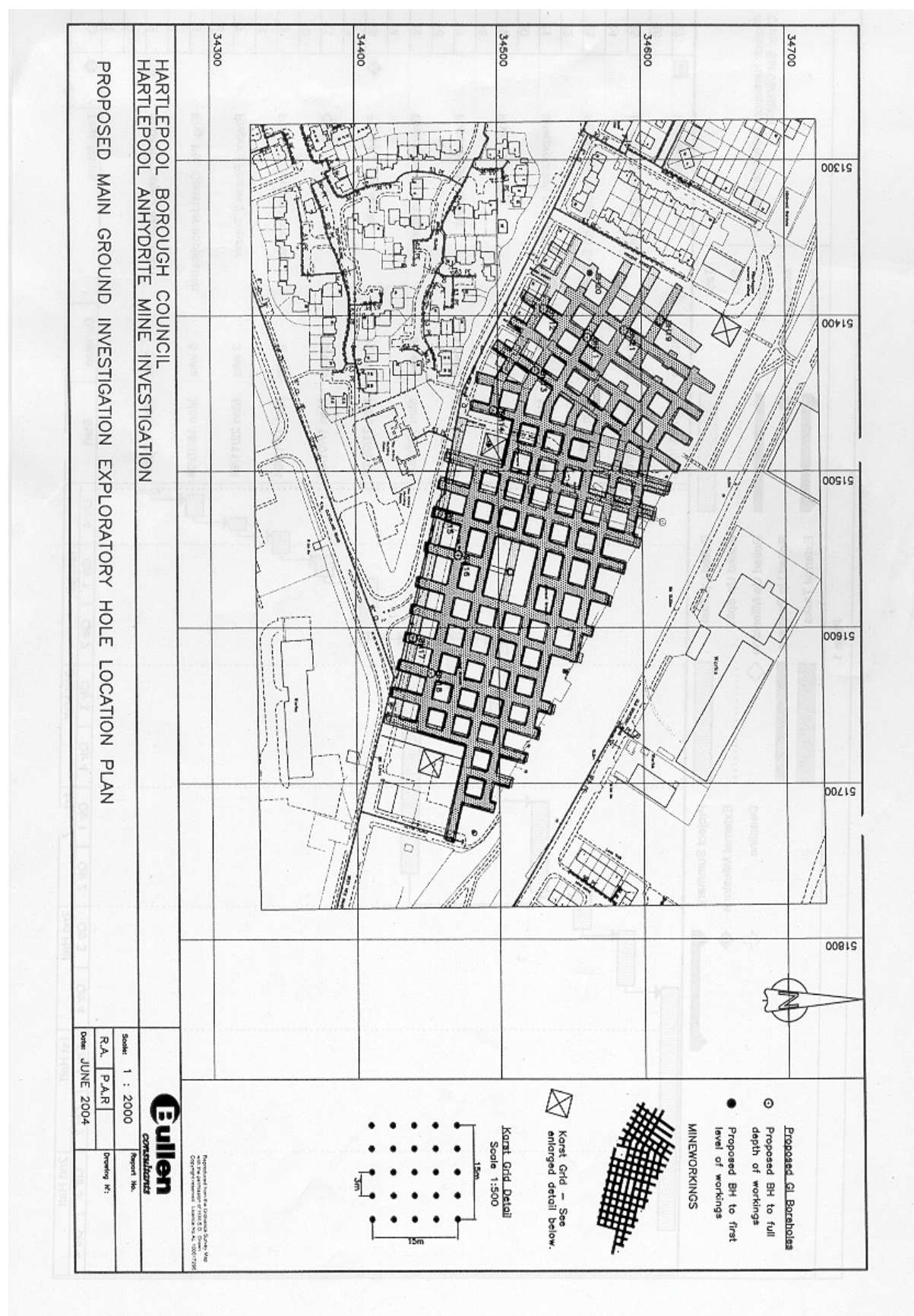
**6. LAND OWNERSHIP ISSUES**

- 6.1 The Chief Solicitor confirms that, as the owners of the land where the mine lies, the Council are responsible for any necessary maintenance or repair (excluding parts of the mine lying beneath a small number of properties which were acquired by private owners some years ago). Additionally, the Council's ownership is subject to the rights of support to adjacent land i.e. the Council are responsible to ensure that the support to adjacent land is not removed e.g. by the subsidence of the Council owned land. There is, therefore, a rightful expectation that the Council will seek to take such steps as are necessary to ensure the stability of the Council land to the extent that adjacent land could be affected by collapse of the Council land. It is also the case that the risk zones (see paragraph 2.4) include public roads and services.

**7. RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 That Cabinet agree to the need to continue the investigation of the anhydrite mine and request Council to approve inclusion of costs of up to £780,000 in the capital programme as a departure from the budget and policy framework.

# APPENDIX 1 – MINEWORKINGS LAYOUT PLAN



## Appendix 1 – 7.1

### APPENDIX 2 - BREAKDOWN OF ESTIMATED BUDGET COSTS FOR ANHYDRITE MINE PROPOSED SITE INVESTIGATION

Capping Mineshaft	£15k
Drilling boreholes, sampling and testing	£300k
Sonar surveying of workings	£100k
Groundwater sampling, testing and chemical analysis	£40k
Micro seismic monitoring of the rock formation	£160k
External consultancy fees (contract procurement site supervision, results interpretation, and report preparation)	£76k
HBC fees (management of external consultancy contract procurement)	£25k
Contingencies	<u>£64k</u>
Total	<u>£780k</u>

**NOTE:** These estimates do not include any future monitoring or remediation costs as referred to in paragraph 2.9 which may prove to be required as a result of the above investigation.



**Report of: North Hartlepool Partnership Manager**

**Subject: NORTH HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME UPDATE**

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update the Forum on progress relating to activities and project development by the North Hartlepool Partnership.

**2. PROJECT UPDATE**

- 2.1 Details of progress on the main environmental and community based capital projects are as follows:

2.2 Carnegie

Work is now completed. Hartlepool Borough Council Sports Development Services and the Library Bibliographic Service have now taken occupation of the building. The building will be officially opened in the near future.

2.3 Friarage Demolition

The derelict buildings near the Friarage Manor House have now been demolished and the Council is looking at the future for the area including the former Friarage.

2.4 Environmental Improvement Programme

The work on the Darlington Street/Throston Street project is complete. It has included paving and hooped top railings, plus a new ramp, steps and paving in Throston Street and new railings, wall and pillars in Durham Street. The scheme has also included art feature Force 10 and the Beaufort Scale. The site was officially opened by Bob Johnson from Tyne Tees Television on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2005.

18 story trail columns are to be erected on a circular route around the Headland. The story trail details have been worked up in conjunction with the headland Local History Group.

The finalised designs for the Town Square have been agreed and some preliminary site investigations have been undertaken. Stagecoach have agreed to the bus terminus being sited on Middlegate subject to review in the future.

2.5 Car Parking

North Hartlepool Partnership is seeking Headland residents' and businesses' views on motor vehicle parking, traffic and transportation via the distribution of a questionnaire and consultation events. These events are to be held on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> November (10am until 2pm in the Borough Hall) and Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> November (4pm until 6pm at St Bega's Primary School). Information gained from the consultation will assist the North Hartlepool Partnership Board in identifying priorities for the future.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Forum note the report.