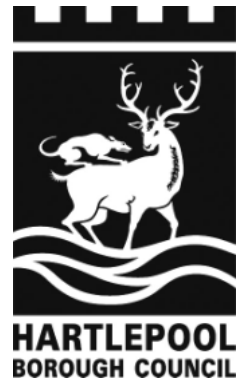


NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Monday 17 August 2009

at 4.00pm

in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

Councillors S Akers-Belcher, Barker, R Cook, Coward, Fleming, J Marshall, Rogan, Worthy and Wright

Resident Representatives: John Cambridge and Brenda Loynes

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
3. **MINUTES**
 - 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2009
4. **RESPONSES FROM THE COUNCIL, THE EXECUTIVE OR COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL TO FINAL REPORTS OF THIS FORUM**
 - 4.1 Portfolio Holder's Response to the Coastal Defences and Shoreline Management in Hartlepool – *Joint Report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Portfolio Holder for Transport and Neighbourhoods*

5. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS REFERRED VIA SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

No items.

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

No items.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- 7.1 Six Monthly Monitoring of Agreed Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's Recommendations – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
- 7.2 Scrutiny Investigation into Climate Change and Carbon Management – Scoping Report - *Scrutiny Support Officer*

8. ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN

9. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Date of next meeting –

Monday 21 September 2009, commencing at 4.00pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

24 July 2009

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher (In the Chair)

Councillors: Rob Cook, John Coward, Arthur Preece, Trevor Rogan,
Gladys Worthy and Edna Wright.

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Paul Mitchinson, Highway Services Manager
James Walsh, Scrutiny Support Officer
Laura Starrs, Scrutiny Support Officer
David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Resident Representatives J Cambridge, M Green and B Loynes.

2. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2009

Confirmed.

4. Responses from the Council, the Executive or Committees of the Council to Final Reports of this Forum

No items.

5. Consideration of request for scrutiny reviews referred via Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

No items.

6. Consideration of progress reports/budget and policy framework documents

No items.

7. The Role of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The Scrutiny Support Officer submitted a report for Members' information which set out the role and remit of Scrutiny in general and specifically the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum. Details of the scheduled meetings for 2009/10 were confirmed at the meeting for Members' information.

Recommended

That the report be noted.

8. Determining the Scrutiny Forum's Work Programme for 2009/10 *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The Scrutiny Support Officer reported that the Scrutiny Forum needed to develop a Work Programme for the 2009/10 Municipal Year, together with a timeframe for each review, for consideration by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 31 July 2009. To this end, the Chair had met with the Director of Neighbourhood Services and various officers to identify issues that may warrant scrutiny investigation. Members had also been consulted to suggest topics for investigation.

Following these consultations, the following issues had been put forward for consideration as part of the forum's work programme for 2009/10: -

- Climate Change / Carbon Reduction
- Traffic Lights
- Land Around Schools

The Scrutiny Support Officer also highlighted that the Municipal Year had commenced late due to the delayed Mayoral elections and the forum would also be involved in considering various other issues through the year, including the Budget 2010/11, the Corporate Plan 2010/11, any potential referrals and the new Councillors Calls for Action.

The Chair confirmed that the August meeting of the forum would receive the Food Services Plan for 2009/10, one of the Council's Budget and policy Framework documents. The issue of Climate Change was seen as an important issue for the Council and the public in general and the Chair considered this to be an important and interesting issue for the Forum to investigate that could potentially have some very positive outcomes. The Chair commented that he would also wish to see an investigation into traffic light issues. The maintenance of the town's traffic lights was currently undertaken through a joint arrangement with Middlesbrough and the Chair

considered that some feedback on that arrangement was necessary.

Members indicated that there had been significant discussion at the recent meeting of the Central Neighbourhood Forum on the issue of road humps around the town. Members commented that there were particular issues in several areas of the town, often dependent on the type of road hump installed. It was considered that this would be a good issue for the forum to investigate to deal with the many public concerns that road humps created. The Director of Neighbourhood Services commented that this could be done quite quickly and within a single meeting of the forum, should Members agree. The Chair commented that he supported this approach but that it should focus on the strategy relating to road humps and traffic calming rather than the issues at specific sites.

Members also commented that there had been issues concern car parking in residential areas raised at the Neighbourhood Forums and suggested that this may also be an issue the Forum may investigate. The Chair indicated that he was aware of the issues raised and supported the Forum reviewing the matter, but again, only on a one meeting basis as there was already a sizeable workload developing for the Forum.

Recommended

That the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee be advised that the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum -

- (i) would seek to investigate Climate Change / Carbon Reduction as its main scrutiny investigation for 2009/10
- (ii) would seek to investigate Traffic lights as its second scrutiny investigation for 2009/10
- (ii) would seek to undertake investigations into Road Humps / Traffic Calming and Residential Car Parking as 'light touch' single meeting investigations.

The meeting concluded at 10.20 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

17 August 2009



Report of: Joint Report of Director for Neighbourhood Services and Portfolio Holder for Transport and Neighbourhoods

Subject: PORTFOLIO HOLDERS RESPONSE – COASTAL DEFENCES AND SHORELINE MANAGEMENT IN HARTLEPOOL

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum with feedback on the recommendations from the investigation into 'Coastal Defences and Shoreline Management in Hartlepool', which was reported to Cabinet on 27 July 2009.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The investigation into 'Coastal Defences and Shoreline Management in Hartlepool' conducted by this Forum falls under the remit of the Neighbourhood Services Department and is, under the Executive Delegation Scheme, within the service area covered by the Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder.
- 2.2 On 27 July 2009, Cabinet considered the Final Report of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum into 'Coastal Defences and Shoreline Management in Hartlepool'. This report provides feedback from the Portfolio Holder following Cabinet's consideration of, and decisions in relation to this Forum's recommendations.
- 2.3 Following on from this report, progress towards completion of the actions contained within the Action Plan will be monitored through the Scrutiny Monitoring Database, with standardised six monthly monitoring reports to be presented to the Forum. In addition to this, the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee will also receive a breakdown of progress against all Scrutiny Forums' recommendations on an Annual basis.

3. SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS AND EXECUTIVE DECISION

- 3.1 Following consideration of the Final Report, Cabinet approved the recommendations in their entirety. Details of each recommendation and proposed actions to be taken following approval by Cabinet are provided in the Action Plan attached at **Appendix A**.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That Members note the proposed actions detailed within the Action Plan, appended to this report (**Appendix A**) and seek clarification on its content where felt appropriate.

Contact Officer:- Alan Coulson – Engineering Manager
Neighbourhood Services Department
Hartlepool Borough Council
Telephone Number: 01429 523242
E-mail – alan.coulson@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (i) Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's Final Report 'Coastal Defences and Shoreline Management in Hartlepool' considered by Cabinet on 27 July 2009; and
- (ii) Decision Record of Cabinet held on 27 July 2009.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN**NAME OF FORUM: Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum****NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Coastal Defences and Shoreline Management in Hartlepool****DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: 27 July 2009**

	RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
(a)	That the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood and Communities lobby the Government to increase the funding available for coastal protection works;	Grant aid is currently managed by the Environment Agency on behalf of DEFRA. Lobbying can be undertaken at a regional level at New castle or at a national level at London as part of the National Review Group meeting (NRG). Lobbying will have to be undertaken at the correct point in time for each individual project.	Portfolio Holder / Officers making trips to New castle / London. Costs to be met from within existing budget	Alan Coulson / Dennis Hancock	There are specific points in each project where this lobbying can take place. The Seaton Carew Strategy Study will be February / March 2010 and the Town Wall Project will be December 2010.
(b)	That the Council undertakes a further assessment of the potential funding streams available for coastal protection works and considers whether further funding can be obtained from other sources;	Officers will use the networking of the North East Coastal Group (NECG) to explore all potential funding streams that might have the potential to be used for assisting with coast protection works.	This will lead to officers visiting other local authorities to seek advice and to share their experiences and to build up an agenda for best practice for Hartlepool Borough Council. Costs to	Alan Coulson / Dennis Hancock.	The initial assessment can be completed by December 2009 but there will need to be an ongoing commitment to this action.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

NAME OF FORUM: Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Coastal Defences and Shoreline Management in Hartlepool

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: 27 July 2009

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
		be met from within existing budget		
(c)	<p>That the Council continues to promote climate change and involves local residents in raising awareness of the effects it has on Hartlepool's coastline;</p> <p>All coast protection studies follow a methodology as set out by DEFRA on behalf of the Government. A key thread that runs through all such studies is the need to strongly include climate change and in particular sea level rise as key drivers for coast protection works.</p> <p>All such studies have an allowance for consultation with many statutory bodies including the public and there are public exhibitions where the awareness of all issues is raised.</p>	Generally, all costs associated with this would be included in the grant award so there would not be any direct costs to Hartlepool Borough Council.	Alan Coulson / Dennis Hancock.	Delivery of this action has already started and will be an ongoing commitment for each individual project. Completion of the Seaton Carew Strategy Study will be March 2010 and the Town Wall Project will be December 2010.
(d)	<p>That the Council establishes the potential risks and implications associated with the loss of the Heugh Breakwater infrastructure and</p> <p>The Heugh Breakwater has been examined in some detail as part of both the Headland Strategy Study and the Shoreline Management Plan II</p>	Generally, all costs associated with this would be included in the grant award so there would not	Alan Coulson / Dennis Hancock.	This will be undertaken as part of the public exhibition associated with

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN**NAME OF FORUM:** Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum**NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY:** Coastal Defences and Shoreline Management in Hartlepool**DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT:** 27 July 2009

	RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
	communicates this to members of the public to alleviate concerns;	<p>The potential risks and implications are well understood.</p> <p>During the forthcoming public exhibition in respect of the Town Wall study, the issue of the breakwater in relation to the Town Wall will be an important part of the consultant's presentation.</p>	There are no direct costs to Hartlepool Borough Council.		the Town Wall Project and this will take place in June 2009.
(e)	That the Council continues to evaluate the risks of developing on sites which could potentially be at risk of coastal erosion in order to ensure the sustainability of future building developments and establishes the potential loss of funding in areas where erosion is occurring; and	<p>The Shoreline Management Plan II that covered the entire Hartlepool coastline determined erosion contours for the next hundred years. These identify parts of the coastline where coastal erosion is likely to occur.</p> <p>The Strategy Studies which are the next level down in the hierarchical system used by the Environment Agency look at such vulnerable areas in more detail and identify potential solutions.</p>	There is the potential for developers to have to include coastal defence measures as part of their proposals.	Alan Coulson / Dennis Hancock.	The Seaton Carew Strategy Study will provide the solutions for the Seaton Carew frontage and this will be available in March 2010.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN**NAME OF FORUM:** Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum**NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY:** Coastal Defences and Shoreline Management in Hartlepool**DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT:** 27 July 2009

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
	These studies will assist the planning process in ensuring that potential developments will be sustainable.			
(f)	<p>That the Council continues to consult extensively with local residents on current / future coastal studies and where appropriate holds such consultation events in the locations covered by the relevant study.</p> <p>The Seaton Carew public exhibition was held at the Staincliffe Hotel and was well attended by members of the public.</p> <p>The forthcoming public exhibition associated with the Town Wall project will be held at the Borough Hall.</p> <p>All future public exhibitions will be located as near as possible to the areas covered by the studies.</p>	All costs associated with this are included in the grant award so there is no direct cost to Hartlepool Borough Council.	Alan Coulson / Dennis Hancock	The first public exhibition associated with the Seaton Carew Strategy Study took place at the Staincliffe Hotel on 29 th April and the one for the Town Wall Project is scheduled for June and will be held at the Borough Hall.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

17 August 2009



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SIX MONTHLY MONITORING OF AGREED
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY
FORUM'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with the six monthly progress made on the delivery of the agreed scrutiny recommendations of this Forum.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 As Members will be aware, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on the 21 November 2007 approved the introduction of an electronic database to monitor the delivery of agreed scrutiny recommendations since the 2005/06 Municipal Year. Approval was also given for the introduction of a standardised six monthly cycle for the submission of progress reports to each Scrutiny Forum.
- 2.2 The newly created electronic database, to be known as the Scrutiny Monitoring Database, will run along the same principles as the Authority's former Corporate Performance Management Database and in addition to provision of standardised six monthly monitoring reports, as detailed above, will provide the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee with a breakdown of progress against all Scrutiny Forums' recommendations on an Annual basis. The introduction of the new database will also provide the ability to produce 'real time' information of the progression of recommendations upon request.
- 2.3 In accordance with the agreed procedure, this report provides for Members information details of progress made against each of the investigations undertaken by the Forum. Attached as **Appendix A** is a Summary Report that breaks down progress made by investigation and **Appendix B**, provides a detailed explanation of progress made against each recommendation.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That progress against the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's agreed recommendations, since the 2005/06 Municipal Year, be noted and explored further where appropriate.

Contact Officer:- James Walsh – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523647
Email: james.walsh@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum**20mph Speed Limit Zones Outside of Schools**

G Target achieved 15

Hartlepool's Local Bus Service Provision

G Target achieved 15

A Expect to achieve target 1

Public Convenience Provision in Hartlepool

R Not expected to achieve target 1

N No longer deliverable 1

G Target achieved 27

School Meals

G Target achieved 4

A Expect to achieve target 1

Transportation Links to Hospital Services & Neighbourhood Services Dept.

G Target achieved 10

Condition of the Highways in Hartlepool

N No longer deliverable 1

G Target achieved 6

A Expect to achieve target 3

Coastal Defences and Shoreline Management in Hartlepool

? No update provided 6

Scrutiny Recommendations (Not Completed) Monitoring Report

Appendix B

August 2009

Department: *

Scrutiny: Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum

Division: *

Scrutiny Enquiry: *

N	No longer deliverable	2	2.2%
	Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum	2	
?	No update provided	6	6.6%
	Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum	6	
R	Not expected to achieve target	1	1.1%
	Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum	1	
A	Expect to achieve target	5	5.5%
	Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum	5	
G	Target achieved	77	84.6%
	Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum	77	
Total No. of Actions		91	

Scrutiny Recommendations (Not Completed) Monitoring Report

August 2009

Progress	Rec. No.	Recommendation	By When / Milestone	Update on progress	Lead Officer
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SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO:

NS/05-6/2 HARTLEPOOL'S LOCAL BUS SERVICE PROVISION

Recommendation:

NS/05-6/2a(ii) That work be undertaken by the Authority to improve the infrastructure of the bus network in Hartlepool, with particular reference to new and innovative means of providing up to date timetable information and ensuring that such information is co-ordinated in a timely manner (with a consideration of the provision of information for blind individuals).

A	NS/05-6/2a(ii)	Continue to review issues relating to timetable information. Improve clarity and presentation of at stop timetable information. Provide Real Time information at selected stops and through the internet, WAP and SMS.	December 2011	New style of timetable displays introduced at bus stops to improve clarity and presentation. Real Time Passenger Information delayed as a result of problems with the Tees Valley system.	Geoff Knowlson
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Scrutiny Recommendations (Not Completed) Monitoring Report

August 2009

Progress	Rec. No.	Recommendation	By When / Milestone	Update on progress	Lead Officer
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SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO:

NS/06-7/3 PUBLIC CONVENIENCE PROVISION IN HARTLEPOOL

Recommendation:

NS/06-7/3(1a)(vii) That in relation to each of the options and proposals put forward as part of the Cabinet Referral the Forum supports the proposals for the demolition and making good of the site at the Ward Jackson Park facilities. The toilets at the café to be made available to all public during the opening hours of the park.

N	NS/06-7/3(1a)(vii)	Demolition and making good of the site at the Ward Jackson Park facilities. The toilets at the café to be made available to all public during the opening hours of the park.	December 2007	With contractual/operational difficulties/ltd opening hours of the café, it was impractical to adopt proposals. It was more appropriate to refurbish existing facilities and provide disabled facilities. New facilities opened in the summer	Denise Ogden
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Recommendation:

NS/06-7/3(1b) That in relation to each of the options and proposals put forward as part of the Cabinet Referral the Forum disagrees with the proposed course of action for the former Seaton Baths site and recommends that the facility be improved in terms of its general condition and more specifically its disabled access externally and disabled facilities.

R	NS/06-7/3(1b)	Improve facilities at the former Seaton Baths site in terms of its general condition and more specifically its disabled access externally and disabled facilities.	December 2008	A planning application for a new facility near the car park adjacent to Newburn Bridge has been submitted. Once built baths site will be demolished.	Denise Ogden
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Scrutiny Recommendations (Not Completed) Monitoring Report

August 2009

Progress	Rec. No.	Recommendation	By When / Milestone	Update on progress	Lead Officer
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SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO:					
NS/07-8/5		SCHOOL MEALS			

Recommendation:

NS/07-8/5c	That the Catering Manager is involved in the planning and design of any new dining facilities in schools resulting from the Building Schools for the Future programme.
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A	NS/07-8/5c	Head of Neighbourhood Management is a member of the extended project team. Consultation mechanisms are in place to ensure the Catering Manager is fully included in the planning and design of any new facility.	December 2009	Planning process will begin formally autumn 2009 (original deadline Jan 08)	Paul Briggs
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Scrutiny Recommendations (Not Completed) Monitoring Report

August 2009

Progress	Rec. No.	Recommendation	By When / Milestone	Update on progress	Lead Officer
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SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO:

NS/08-9/7 **CONDITION OF THE HIGHWAYS IN HARTLEPOOL**

Recommendation:

NS/08-9/7a That the Council develops a strategy to achieve a planned approach to highways maintenance as opposed to a reactive approach.

A	NS/08-9/7a	Strategy to be developed to give Council options to provide a minimum service level; a fair service level; a good service level; or an excellent service level. Council to select appropriate strategy dependant on affordability.	June 2010	An interim strategy will be presented to portfolio holder in August 2009 whilst the long term strategy incorporating the different levels of service is being developed for 2010.	Paul Mitchinson
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Recommendation:

NS/08-9/7h That the income generated from the charges imposed on the Utility Companies be redirected into the highways maintenance budget.

N	NS/08-9/7h	Any income generated from charges imposed on the Utilities are used to part fund the Street Works Service. The use of the monies in any other way would require the Road and Street Works Act (RASWA) service to be alternatively funded.	March 2009	Monies generated are used to fund the service at this moment in time. Should the amount generated exceed the requirements these can then be redirected back into the highway maintenance budget	Mike Blair
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Scrutiny Recommendations (Not Completed) Monitoring Report

August 2009

Progress	Rec. No.	Recommendation	By When / Milestone	Update on progress	Lead Officer
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SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO:

NS/08-9/7

CONDITION OF THE HIGHWAYS IN HARTLEPOOL

Recommendation:

NS/08-9/7i

That the Council reviews the 2009 / 2010 financial contribution from the Highways Service to the Insurance Fund and any reduction in such contribution be redirected to the highways maintenance budget.

A NS/09-9/7i

The current funding arrangement is designed to provide an overall fund to cover liabilities over a long term. The current level is set to smooth the peaks and troughs that occur over time. Before a reduction could be agreed to the highway contribution, an alternative source of funding would be needed to make up the shortfall or an alternative strategy would be required.

March 2010 Insurance recharges are based upon a long term assessment of the costs of claims whilst it is true that the number of claims has fallen the actual cost of each settled claim has risen thus in financial terms the position is that Highways is expected to continue to be a net drain on the fund. We keep all aspects of claims history under review as a matter of course. The most appropriate funding strategy for insurable risks is assessed periodically when the Council undertakes a tendering exercise for a range of insurance levels - the next such review is expected to be undertaken in 2011 by which time it is hoped that the trend of overall costs from Highways has shown an improved position. At this stage the information shows a mixed position with no net overall improvement in financial terms.

Mike Ward

Scrutiny Recommendations (Not Completed) Monitoring Report

August 2009

Progress	Rec. No.	Recommendation	By When / Milestone	Update on progress	Lead Officer
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SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO:

NS/08-9/7 **CONDITION OF THE HIGHWAYS IN HARTLEPOOL**

Recommendation:

NS/08-9/7j That the Council integrates Confirm, the highways system with the Customer Relationship Management System in order to improve the accuracy and efficiency of the monitoring and feed back arrangements for customer enquiries relating to highways maintenance.

A NS/08-9/7j	Hartlepool Connect is currently in the process of identifying an appropriate middleware solution, which will allow the Customer Relationship Management System to integrate to other Council systems, including the Highways "Confirm" system. The Council's E-Government Team , in conjunction with the Contact Centre, are reviewing the options available. Considering system integration in isolation will increase overall costs and on that basis "Confirm" will be considered as part of that options process.	March 2010 On-going discussions about appropriate CRM system to use. Expected to achieve target	Ralph Young
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Scrutiny Recommendations (Not Completed) Monitoring Report

August 2009

Progress	Rec. No.	Recommendation	By When / Milestone	Update on progress	Lead Officer
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SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO:

NS/08-9/8 COASTAL DEFENCES AND SHORELINE MANAGEMENT IN HARTLEPOOL


Recommendation:

NS/08-9/8a That the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Communities lobby the Government to increase the funding available for coastal protection works.

 NS/08-9/8a	Grant aid is currently managed by the Environment Agency on behalf of DEFRA.	December 2010	Awaiting Action Plan to be Presented to Forum on 17 August 2009.	Alan Coulson
	Lobbying can be undertaken at a regional level at Newcastle or at a national level at London as part of the National Review Group meeting (NRG).			
	Lobbying will have to be undertaken at the correct point in time for each individual project.			

Recommendation:

NS/08-9/8b That the Council undertakes a further assessment of the potential funding streams available for coastal protection works and considers whether further funding can be obtained from other sources.

 NS/08-9/8b	Officers will use the networking of the North East Coastal Group (NECG) to explore all potential funding streams that might have the potential to be used for assisting with coast protection works.	December 2009	Awaiting Action Plan to be Presented to Forum on 17 August 2009.	Alan Coulson
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Scrutiny Recommendations (Not Completed) Monitoring Report

August 2009


Progress	Rec. No.	Recommendation	By When / Milestone	Update on progress	Lead Officer
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SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO:

NS/08-9/8 COASTAL DEFENCES AND SHORELINE MANAGEMENT IN HARTLEPOOL


Recommendation:

NS/08-9/8c That the Council continues to promote climate change and involves local residents in raising awareness of the effects it has on Hartlepool's coastline.

 NS/08-9/8c	<p>All coast protection studies follow a methodology as set out by DEFRA on behalf of the Government. A key thread that runs through all such studies is the need to strongly include climate change and in particular sea level rise as key drivers for coast protection works.</p> <p>All such studies have an allowance for consultation with many statutory bodies including the public and there are public exhibitions where the awareness of all issues is raised.</p>	<p>December 2010 Awaiting Action Plan to be Presented to Forum on 17 August 2009.</p>	Alan Coulson
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Recommendation:

NS/08-9/8d That the Council establishes the potential risks and implications associated with the loss of the Heugh Breakwater infrastructure and communicates this to members of the public to alleviate concerns.

 NS/08-9/8d	<p>The Heugh Breakwater has been examined in some detail as part of both the Headland Strategy Study and the Shoreline Management Plan II.</p> <p>The potential risks and implications are well understood.</p> <p>During the forthcoming public exhibition in respect of the Town Wall study, the issue of the breakwater in relation to the Town Wall will be a important part of the consultant's presentation.</p>	<p>June 2009 Awaiting Action Plan to be Presented to Forum on 17 August 2009.</p>	Alan Coulson
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Scrutiny Recommendations (Not Completed) Monitoring Report

August 2009

Progress	Rec. No.	Recommendation	By When / Milestone	Update on progress	Lead Officer
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SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO:

NS/08-9/8

COASTAL DEFENCES AND SHORELINE MANAGEMENT IN HARTLEPOOL

Recommendation:

NS/08-9/8e

That the Council continues to evaluate the risks of developing on sites which could potentially be at risk of coastal erosion in order to ensure the sustainability of future building developments and establishes the potential loss of funding in areas where erosion is occurring.



NS/08-9/8e

The Shoreline Management Plan II that covered the entire Hartlepool coastline determined erosion contours for the next hundred years. These identify parts of the coastline where coastal erosion is likely to occur.

The Strategy Studies which are the next level down in the hierarchical system used by the Environment Agency look at such vulnerable areas in more detail and identify potential solutions.

These studies will assist the planning process in ensuring that potential developments will be sustainable.

March 2010 Awaiting Action Plan to be Presented to Forum on 17 August 2009.

Alan Coulson

Scrutiny Recommendations (Not Completed) Monitoring Report

August 2009

Progress	Rec. No.	Recommendation	By When / Milestone	Update on progress	Lead Officer
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SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO:

NS/08-9/8

COASTAL DEFENCES AND SHORELINE MANAGEMENT IN HARTLEPOOL

Recommendation:

NS/08-9/8f

That the Council continues to consult extensively with local residents on current / future coastal studies and where appropriate holds such consultation events in the locations covered by the relevant study.



NS/08-9/8f

The Seaton Carew public exhibition was held at the Staincliffe Hotel and was well attended by members of the public.

The forthcoming public exhibition associated with the Town Wall project will be held at the Borough Hall.

All future public exhibitions will be located as near as possible to the areas covered by the studies.

June 2009 Awaiting Action Plan to be Presented to Forum on 17 August 2009.

Alan Coulson

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

17 August 2009



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO CLIMATE
CHANGE AND CARBON MANAGEMENT –
SCOPING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To make proposals to Members of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum for their forthcoming investigation into Climate Change and Carbon Management.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the meeting of this Forum on 24 June 2009, Members determined their work programme for the 2009/10 Municipal Year. The topic of 'Climate Change and Carbon Management' was selected as the first Scrutiny topic for consideration during the current Municipal Year. Furthermore, Members suggested that this investigation should form the major in-depth Scrutiny Inquiry for the Forum's 2009/10 work programme.
- 2.2 Responsibility for the Council's response to the challenge of climate change and the Council's commitment to managing carbon emissions falls under the remit of the Environmental Standards Section which is part of the Neighbourhood Services Department.
- 2.3 The Climate Change Act became law in 2008 and one of the key aims underpinning the Act is:-

*"To improve carbon management and help the transition towards a low carbon economy in the UK"*¹

¹ Defra, 1 December 2008

To reach this goal Local Authorities are being challenged to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 34% by 2020, with a further target of an 80% reduction of CO₂ emissions by 2050.

- 2.4 In conjunction with the Climate Change Act 2008, Hartlepool Borough Council also has a responsibility to work towards three National Indicators (NI) led by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) as detailed in Table 1 below:-

Table 1: Prepare for the Impacts of and Secure Local and Global Action to Tackle Climate Change

Code	NI	Aims
NI185	CO ₂ reduction from local authority operations	To measure the progress of local authorities in reducing CO ₂ emissions from the relevant buildings and transport used to deliver their functions and to encourage them to demonstrate leadership on tackling climate change.
NI186	Per capita reduction in CO ₂ emissions in the Local Authority area	To provide sector breakdowns for industry, domestic and transport emissions.
NI188	Planning to Adapt to Climate Change	Designed to measure progress in preparedness in assessing and addressing the risks and opportunities of a changing climate.

3. OVERALL AIM OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION/ENQUIRY

- 3.1 To gain an understanding of Hartlepool Borough Council's response to the issue of Climate Change and identify what efforts the Council is making to manage its carbon emissions.

4. PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

- 4.1 The following Terms of Reference for the investigation are proposed:-

- (a) To gain an understanding of the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme (LACMP) and Hartlepool Borough Council's commitment to the LACMP;
- (b) To examine the implications of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) to Hartlepool Borough Council;
- (c) To review the initiatives aimed at reducing the use of energy resources by the Council;
- (d) To seek the views of partner / external agencies on ways to meet the challenges of Climate Change and Carbon Management; and

- (e) To assess the awareness of climate change in the community and how its profile may be raised.

5. POTENTIAL AREAS OF ENQUIRY / SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

5.1 Members of the Forum can request a range of evidential and comparative information throughout the Scrutiny review.

5.2 The Forum can invite a variety of people to attend to assist in the forming of a balanced and focused range of recommendations as follows:-

- (a) Cabinet Member with Portfolio Holder for Transport and Neighbourhoods;
- (b) Director of Neighbourhood Services Department;
- (c) Ward Councillors;
- (d) Carbon Trust;
- (e) Environment Agency;
- (f) Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership;
- (g) North East Climate Change Partnership;
- (h) North East Improvement and Efficiency Partnership;
- (i) Tees and Durham Energy Advice (TADEA);
- (j) Energy Saving Trust; and
- (k) Local residents.

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

(a) Climate Change Act 2008:-

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2008/pdf/ukpga_20080027_en.pdf

(b) Climate Change: What are we doing in the UK:-

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/index.htm>

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY

6.1 Community engagement plays a crucial role in the Scrutiny process and paragraph 5.2, details who the Forum could involve. However, thought will

need to be given to the structure in the way that the Forum wishes to encourage those views.

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

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

- 7.1 Consideration has been given, through the background research for this scoping report, to the need to request funding from the dedicated Overview and Scrutiny budget to aid Members in their enquiry. At this stage no additional funding has been identified as being necessary to support Members in their investigation. Members, however, may wish to seek additional funding over the course of the investigation and the pro forma attached at **Appendix A** outlines the criteria on which a request to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee will be judged.
- 7.2 In addition, it is possible that over the course of this investigation some specialist research / advice may strengthen the Forum's findings and recommendations. The Scrutiny Support Officer will explore this in greater depth once the Forum has defined its terms of reference for the investigation and would bring a report to the Forum should a request for funding be deemed advantageous. Members' comments would be welcomed at this stage in relation to requests for additional funding from the dedicated Overview and Scrutiny Budget.

8. PROPOSED TIMETABLE OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

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

17 Aug 2009– Consideration of the Scoping Report by the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum

21 Sep 2009– Formal meeting of the Forum to receive:-

- (i) A 'Setting the Scene' report from the Neighbourhood Services Department to include the Carbon Management Programme and the Carbon Reduction Commitment; and

- (ii) Evidence from the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Neighbourhoods.

26 Oct 2009– Formal meeting of the Forum to receive:-

- (i) Evidence on the reduction of the use of energy resources from within the Authority; and
- (ii) Evidence on best practice from partner / external agencies.

Nov / Dec – Site Visit / Activity Session looking at the Environment Roundabout

18 Jan 2010 – Formal meeting of the Forum to receive

- (i) Evidence on climate change awareness in the community; and
- (ii) Feedback from Environment Roundabout.

1 Mar 2010 – Consideration of Draft Final Report by Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum

19 Mar 2010– Consideration of Final Report by Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

23 Mar 2010– Consideration of Final Report by the Cabinet (tentative date)

9. RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 Members are recommended to agree the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's remit of the Scrutiny investigation as outlined in paragraph 4.1

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (a) Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2008) *Climate Change Act 2008 – Key Provisions / Milestones*, Available from: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/legislation/provisions.htm> (Accessed 30 July 2009).
- (b) Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2008) Local Government Performance Framework: Defra-led National Indicators, <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localgovindicators/indicators.htm> (Accessed 30 July 2009).
- (c) Climate Change Act 2008, Available from: http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2008/pdf/ukpga_20080027_en.pdf (Accessed 30 July 2009).
- (d) Report of the Director for Neighbourhood Services entitled 'The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC)' presented at the meeting of Cabinet of 18 May 2009.

APPENDIX A

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

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

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

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

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