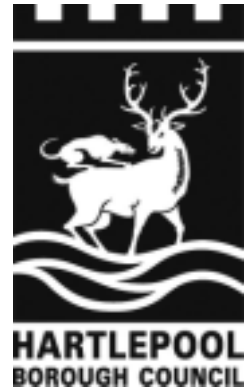


COMMUNITY SAFETY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO DECISION SCHEDULE



Friday, 11 September 2009

at 10.00 am

in Committee Room C, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond responsible for Community Safety and Housing will consider the following items.

1. KEY DECISIONS

- 1.1 Tees Valley Gypsy And Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (TVGTAA) – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*
- 1.2 Hartlepool Growth Point Funding Allocation Update – *Head of Regeneration*

2. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 2.1 Greatham Conservation Area Visual Assessment – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*
- 2.2 Update On Partnership Schemes In Conservation Areas – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*

3. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 3.1 Conservation Areas At Risk – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*
- 3.2 Migration Impact Fund – *Head of Community Strategy*
- 3.3 Fairtrade Town Update - *Head of Procurement, Property and Public Protection*

4. REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY FORUMS

No items

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

Report To Portfolio Holder
11th September 2009



Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

**Subject: TEES VALLEY GYPSY AND TRAVELLER
ACCOMMODATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT
(TVGTAA)**

SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Portfolio holder that the Tees Valley Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (TVGTAA) has been prepared jointly by the Tees Valley Local Authorities and to consider and endorse the findings and explain its likely implications for Hartlepool.

2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

This report details the reasons why the TVGTAA has been produced and explains the methods used in its production. The GTAA involved wide ranging and direct consultation with the Tees Valley gypsy and traveller community and other key stakeholders.

The report summarises the key findings and characteristics of the local Gypsy and Traveller Community and explains the implications of these and the subsequent future accommodation needs in relation to Hartlepool.

3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

The TVGTAA report indicates gypsy and traveller accommodation needs over the short and medium terms for each of the Tees Valley authorities and has implications for spatial planning allocations and housing needs provision.

4.0 TYPE OF DECISION

Key, test (ii) applies.

5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Portfolio Holder

6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED

That the portfolio holder notes the report and endorses the needs assessment as the basis for future strategy development.

Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

**Subject: TEES VALLEY GYPSY AND TRAVELLER
ACCOMMODATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT
(TVGTAA)**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Portfolio holder that the Tees Valley Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (TVGTAA) has been prepared jointly by the Tees Valley Local Authorities and to consider and endorse the findings and explain its likely implications for Hartlepool.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The assessment has been produced in response to recent legislation and guidance from the Government to resolve long term accommodation issues for members of the Gypsy and Traveller community. The Housing Act 2004 requires local housing authorities to assess the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers in their area, and produce a strategy on how these needs can be met. The aim of central Government is to ensure that gypsy and traveller communities have equal access to decent and appropriate accommodation options.
- 2.2 Funding was provided by Central Government for each Local Authority to carry out a GTAA. Following best practice it was agreed to commission a GTAA at the sub-regional level by the five Tees Valley Authorities. The study was conducted by a team of researchers from the University of Salford and assisted by staff from the University of Birmingham both of whom have considerable experience of carrying out these assessments.
- 2.3 The study was managed by a Steering Group composed of officers representing the partner authorities, representatives of the Gypsy and Traveller communities and other key stakeholders including the police. The assessment was undertaken by conducting:
- A review of available literature, data and secondary sources;
 - A detailed questionnaire completed by housing and planning officers;
 - Consultations with key stakeholders; and
 - A total of 149 interviews with Gypsies and Travellers from a range of tenures and community groups.

3. MAIN FINDINGS

- 3.1 The consultants estimate that there are 1320 local gypsy and travellers across the Tees Valley. Currently in Tees Valley there are:
- 2 socially rented sites totalling 43 pitches and located at Middlesbrough and Stockton.
 - 15 authorised private sites providing 75 pitches and 24 transit pitches all located in Darlington and Stockton.
 - 5 unauthorised developments (land owned by gypsies and travellers but developed without provision) accommodating 12 separate households. Four of these five unauthorised sites are in Darlington and one in Stockton.
 - One yard for travelling showpeople in Middlesbrough which accommodates 10 families.
 - **There are no private, socially rented or unauthorised pitches located within the Borough of Hartlepool.**
- 3.2 Records kept by the local authorities show that the Tees Valley experienced around 44 unauthorised encampments over the previous calendar year. Most of these occurred in Darlington, Stockton on Tees and Redcar & Cleveland. **Hartlepool had 3 unauthorised encampments during this period.**
- 3.3 An estimated 267 traveller families across the Tees Valley live in brick and mortar housing and 53 households living in dwellings across Tees Valley were interviewed as part of the study.
- 3.4 The GTAA identified some of the important characteristics of the local population;
- Household size much larger than in the non traveller population at 3.3 persons.
 - Young families are the predominant household type across Tees Valley.
 - The majority of respondents, nearly three quarters felt they were “local” to the area they were residing in.
 - A diverse ethnic mix with Romany Gypsy the largest group (75%) followed by Irish Travellers (14%), then by Travelling Show people (7%).
 - The gypsy and traveller population is largely sedentary. However over half of settled or authorised households still travelled seasonally.
- 3.5 When asked about their accommodation aspirations there was strong support for additional long stay residential sites and respondents voiced a preference for residential capacities of 10-15 pitches.

- 3.6 The GTAA has identified accommodation needs at a sub-region and local level. This was done on a “**need where it arises**” basis. This distribution reflects the current uneven distribution of pitch provision and where Gypsy and Travellers actually live in the Tees Valley. The table below presents the requirements.

	Study Area Total	Darlington	Hartlepool	Middlesbrough	Redcar & Cleveland	Stockton-on-Tees
Current authorised residential provision ¹ (pitches)	128	62	0	25	0*	41
Additional residential need 2007-2012 (pitches)	79	61	4	4	-7	17
Additional residential need 2012-2016 (pitches)	26	15	1	3	1	7
Additional residential need 2016-2021 (pitches)	38	22	1	4	2	10
Estimated total additional residential pitch need 2007-2026	145	98	6	11	-4	34

Note: For pragmatic reasons these figures have been rounded up to the nearest whole pitch

* Redcar & Cleveland has a site which was temporarily closed at the time of the assessment. This is to be re-opened after refurbishment and has been included in the requirements as an element of supply.

4. IMPLICATIONS FOR HARTLEPOOL

- 4.1 The reports main conclusion was that the authorities involved aim to work in a proactive fashion to meet the accommodation needs which have been identified.
- 4.2 It will be through Hartlepool's Local Development Framework (LDF) which replaces the local plan as the land use/spatial planning strategy for the Borough that will identify specific sites taking into consideration pitch numbers from this assessment or define criteria against which future sites that come forward can be assessed.

¹ These are approximations of the provision (public and private) based on information obtained from the authorities during the course of the assessment. This includes Travelling Showpeople sites.

- 4.3 The GTAA will form part of the evidence base which will inform the policies of the new LDF in relation to Gypsies and travellers site provision.
- 4.4 The GTAA will form part of the authorities Housing Needs Assessment and will inform the Housing Strategy for Hartlepool.
- 4.5 Copies of the GTAA and supporting documents have been placed in the Member's Room and can be accessed online on the planning policy page of the Council's website www.hartlepool.gov.uk.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That the portfolio holder notes the report and endorses the needs assessment as the basis for future strategy development.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

Report To Portfolio Holder
11th September 2009



Report of: Head of Regeneration

Subject: HARTLEPOOL GROWTH POINT FUNDING
ALLOCATION UPDATE

SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Portfolio Holder regarding the recent announcement from the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) regarding the reduction in the allocation of Growth Point funding awarded to the authorities of the Tees Valley. The report also seeks endorsement of a proposed alternative programme to accommodate the proposed reduction in funding. The report also provides a brief progress report relating to the sites already receiving Growth Point funding support.

2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

- 2.1 The report provides a summary of the current Growth Point allocation. It details how the proposed enforced reduction of £1.5m of capital funding from the total £5.7m allocated to the Tees Valley Authorities can be accommodated by splitting the reduction in funding evenly across the five Tees Valley authorities. This approach will mean that the Hartlepool Growth Point allocation of £1.147m will be reduced by a total of £305,575. The report suggests how this level of funding could be accommodated across the five housing sites whilst retaining a coherent meaningful development programme.

3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

- 3.1 The Portfolio Holder has responsibility for issues relating to housing therefore endorsement of changes to Hartlepool's element of the Tees Valley Growth Point projects falls within his remit.

4.0 TYPE OF DECISION

4.1 Key Decision Test (i) applies.

5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE

5.1 Community Safety and Housing Portfolio 11th September 2009.

6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED

6.1 The Portfolio Holder is requested to:

- (i) Agree to the specific measures outlined in table 2 to accommodate the reduction in Growth Point funding.

Report of: Head of Regeneration

Subject: HARTLEPOOL GROWTH POINT FUNDING
ALLOCATION UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Portfolio Holder regarding the recent announcement from the department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) regarding the reduction in the allocation of Growth Point funding awarded to the authorities of the Tees Valley. The report also seeks endorsement of a proposed alternative programme to accommodate the proposed reduction in funding. The report also provides a brief progress report relating to the sites already receiving Growth Point funding support.

2. BACKGROUND AND PROGRESS

- 2.1 Previously the Portfolio Holder had agreed to a programme of interventions utilising Growth Point funding in five housing development sites outlined in table 1.

Site	2009/10	2010/11
Easington Road	£125,000	£0
Shared Equity (Headway)	£126,000	£124,000
Belle Vue Acquisitions	£40,365	£460,017
East Central Hartlepool (Surtees Street)	£102,000	£0
Golden Flatts	£50,000	£120,000
Total	£443,365	£704,017

Table 1. Original Growth Point Allocation

- 2.2 This overall prioritised programme was agreed in a previous report to Portfolio Holder (24th April 2009). This package was designed to address Hartlepool's main housing priorities whilst meeting the objectives of the Growth Point initiative. The package also reflected the constraints of the Growth Point funding including the spend profile and

the need to show demonstrable evidence of progress against the Growth Point targets by March 2011.

- 2.3. The Portfolio Holder previously agreed the detailed approval for the individual HMR elements of the programme identified in Table 1.0 (Easington Road, Headway Site and Belle Vue) at his meeting of the 22nd May 2009. Since then progress to date on these sites includes:
- (i) **Easington Road** – All of the properties have been acquired by Housing Hartlepool and the residents have been relocated. Demolition of the properties will begin in September 2009 and be cleared by Christmas. A design competition has been commissioned to develop a brief for the site, to help raise the design quality of the proposed new development. Growth Point funding will contribute to the cost of the demolition contract.
 - (ii) **Shared Equity (Headway Site)** – This scheme is designed to provide flexible support to house purchasers by contributing to a percentage share of the cost of the house purchase. The majority share would be met by the purchaser through a mortgage etc. The scheme intends to help bridge the ‘gap’ that many house purchasers are facing because of the restrictive nature of the products that are currently available in the mortgage market. The scheme is focused on the Headway HMR site in an attempt to stimulate demand. Interest in the initiative has been very high and currently the £250,000 awarded has been fully allocated. One purchase (and Growth Point payment) has been completed and a further 9 have been provisionally agreed and are expected to complete within the next 12 months. Over the same period the developer has indicated that only one sale has been completed through the orthodox purchase route, giving an indication of the attractiveness of the shared equity scheme. The success of the scheme has enabled Wimpey to look at the makeup and layout of the next phase of site development.
 - (iii) **Belle Vue Acquisitions** – Acquisition of properties by agreement with owners is continuing. Demolition of the Housing Hartlepool element of the housing stock is due to begin in September. A design group has been established to guide the development, and discussions are underway regarding the creation of a Limited Liability Partnership with the relevant parties to progress development of the site.
 - (iv) **East Central Hartlepool (Surtees Street) and Seaton Lane** – A decision by Cabinet (13th July 2009) agreed that both of these sites were to be the subject of a Local Authority bid for Social Housing Grant (SHG) for the development of affordable housing. A decision was made to submit a bid that would help to fund development of 25 units at Seaton Lane and 20 units on the

Surtees Street site. All of the properties delivered through the SHG scheme will be of social rented tenure and mainly 3 bed units with some bungalows. The aspiration for all of the units is to meet Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) level 4 ensuring a very high level of environmental sustainability. For the Seaton Lane site, Growth Point funding was intended to provide an access to the site and develop sound amelioration measures to mitigate disturbance from neighbouring industrial uses. HBC engineers are currently designing the planned works. In relation to Surtees Street, prior to the Cabinet decision on the SHG bid, expressions of interest had been sought from RSL's to develop social housing across this site. Whilst bids are still being reviewed, specific scheme details and timing of development will depend on the outcome of the SHG bid and bids for funding for the remaining units to the HCA National Affordable Homes Programme. Growth Point funding would be used towards site assembly and investigation costs. Both Surtees Street and Golden Flatts sites will be subject to a further report to Portfolio Holder(s) for detailed approval when firmed costs are established.

3. REDUCTION IN ALLOCATED FUNDING

- 3.1 The Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) announced on 17th July that all of the Local Authorities receiving Growth Point funding are to have their 2010/11 capital budgets reduced in order to fund other Government priorities. The original Growth Point approval document for Tees Valley highlighted that both the capital and revenue funding for 2009/10 was confirmed but the allocations for 2010/11 were "provisional" and would not be confirmed by Parliament until the quarter prior to the start of the financial year (2010/11). The document also noted that "Changes to the provisional amounts will only be made by the Secretary of State in exceptional circumstances".
- 3.2 The reduction in capital funding for the Tees Valley in 2010/11 is from £3,520,087 to £1,992,209. When the Growth Point funding was awarded, the Boroughs collectively agreed to evenly split the capital resource. It has been subsequently agreed that the proposed reduction should be accommodated in the same way. This will mean that the £1,527,878 Tees Valley reduction will result in a £305,575 reduction in the previously endorsed Hartlepool package for 2010/11.

Site	2009/10	2010/11
Easington Road	£0	£125,000
Shared Equity	£250,000	£0
Belle Vue Acquisitions	£21,365	£273,442
East Central Hartlepool	£122,000	£0
Golden Flatts	£50,000	£0
Total	£443,365	£398,442

Table 2 – Revised Growth Point Profile.

3.3 Table 2 contains a proposed revised profile to meet the requirements of the reduced allocation in 2010/11. The changes have been strongly influenced by the progress and circumstances of each particular development. Reductions have been suggested in areas where the remaining Growth Point input remains reasonable and will still result in a contribution that will have a meaningful impact and influence on residential development. The proposed reductions are as follows:

- (a) **Golden Flatts** - It is suggested that the Growth Point contribution for this site is reduced by £120,000 in 2010/11. As discussed in paragraph (iv) this site is subject to a separate bid for Social Housing Grant (SHG) which if successful will result in the development of 25 affordable housing units. It is proposed that the Growth Point funding allocated for 2009/10 is utilised to implement a site access to support the proposed SHG development. Providing access will also help to open up the site for further development (which potentially could support approximately a further 75 units providing a mixed tenure development) making the site more attractive to developers. The proposed reduction in funding for this site will mean that the sound amelioration aspect of the proposed Growth Point works would not be achieved. This would not prevent the SHG housing element of the site being progressed as the proposed site for this element of the development is in the northern part of the site. This area would be affected least by the sites industrial neighbours. The first stage development of this site through the Council Social Housing Grant route supported by Growth Point funding could make the remaining site more attractive to developers in the future for mixed tenure developments. This may be enhanced further in the longer term if more additional surrounding land is included in the development site. Further sound mitigation works will be required as the rest of the site is built out.
- (b) **Belle Vue** – It is suggested that the remaining reduction of approximately £200,000 will be made from the Belle Vue redevelopment scheme. The original Growth Point contribution to this scheme helped toward the viability of the overall scheme. The remaining Growth Point contribution to this scheme will still

play and important role in supporting the viability of the site. Other opportunities that are now being explored to further support the viability of the scheme include the creation of a Limited Liability Partnership or Joint Venture Company with the identified preferred developer.

- 3.4 Other minor changes to the spend profile have also been suggested in order to meet the maximum spend in 2009/10 and 2010/11 and to reflect the progress being made with the other development sites. (see table 2).

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There is no expectation that the authority will need to meet any shortfall as a result of the funding awarded. There is therefore no direct financial implication for the authority to consider.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Portfolio Holder is requested to:
- (ii) Agree to the specific measures outlined in table 2 to accommodate the reduction in Growth Point funding.

**COMMUNITY SAFETY & HOUSING
PORTFOLIO**

REPORT TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER

11 September 2009



Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: GREATHAM CONSERVATION AREA VISUAL
ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information to the Portfolio Holder on the visual assessment that has recently been carried out in the Greatham Conservation Area and request permission to take the draft document out to public consultation.

2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

- 2.1 The report outlines the background to the visual appraisal and briefly summarises the topics covered. It is proposed that the document is taken out to public consultation prior to being finalised.

3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

- 3.1 Conservation policy falls within the Portfolio.

4.0 TYPE OF DECISION

- 4.1 Non - key.

5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE

- 5.1 Portfolio holder only

6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED

- 6.1 That the Portfolio Holder notes the report and agrees to the public consultation for the Greatham Conservation Area Visual Assessment.

Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: GREATHAM CONSERVATION AREA VISUAL ASSESSMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information to the Portfolio Holder on the visual assessment that has recently been carried out in the Greatham Conservation Area and request permission to take the draft document out to public consultation.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Area) Act 1990 states that local planning authorities shall 'determine which parts of their area are areas of special architectural or historic interest the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.' Once areas are designated it is then the 'duty of a local planning authority from time to time to review the past exercise of functions under this section and to determine whether any parts or any further parts of their area should be designated as conservation areas; and, if they so determine, they shall designate those parts accordingly.' The starting point in reviewing an existing conservation area is to carry out an appraisal.
- 2.2 Appraisals are a means of assessing the key factors contributing to the appearance and character of existing and potential conservation area appraisals. There is no formal requirement for the form and content of appraisals, or the methodology to be used, but typically appraisals cover such subjects as historic development of the area, archaeological significance, prevalent building materials, the character of open spaces, the quality and relationships of buildings and also of trees.
- 2.3 The local authority has committed to carrying out two conservation area appraisal a year. It is acknowledged that as an interim measure there is a need to carry out an assessment of the other existing conservation areas to review their boundaries and ensure that their character is clearly defined. In order to do this visual assessments will be carried out of these areas.
- 2.4 The visual assessments are based on the English Heritage document 'Guidance on conservation area appraisals'. They include desk based work considering historic plans showing the development of the area, along with on site assessments of the current state of properties within the area.

3. VISUAL APPRAISAL OF GREATHAM CONSERVATION AREAS

- 3.1 The appraisal considers the reasons for the establishment and early development of Greatham in the 11th and 13th centuries, which were agriculture and the care of vulnerable people by the Hospital of God. It notes that both have had a continued influence on the character and appearance of Greatham as a Conservation Area. Further to this it concludes that the continued maintenance of buildings in the area and sensitive developments over an extended period have made a positive contribution to the character of the Conservation Area.

4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 It is felt that the document would benefit from public consultation prior to its finalisation. The document will be placed on the Council's website to allow it to be considered and comments submitted to officers. A press release will notify residents of the intention to do this.
- 4.2 Local groups and interested parties will also be consulted on the documents. This will include groups such as the Conservation Area Advisory Committee, Civic Society, the Parish Council and the Hospital of God who are a major landowner in the area.

5 RECOMENDATION

- 5.1 That the Portfolio Holder notes the report and agrees to the public consultation for the Greatham Conservation Area Visual Assessment.

COMMUNITY SAFETY & HOUSING PORTFOLIO

REPORT TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER

11th September 2009



Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: **UPDATE ON PARTNERSHIP SCHEMES IN
CONSERVATION AREAS**

SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information to the Portfolio Holder on the recent correspondence from English Heritage regarding potential Partnership Schemes in Church Street and Stranton Conservation Areas.

2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

- 2.1 The report outlines the background to partnership schemes and the recent feedback received from English Heritage regarding an expression of interest made in January on potential Partnership Schemes in Church Street and Stranton Conservation Areas. It is proposed that an application for a Partnership Scheme in Stranton is pursued and this report sets out the approach to this.

3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

- 3.1 Conservation policy falls within the Portfolio.

4.0 TYPE OF DECISION

- 4.1 Non - key decision.

5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE

- 5.1 Portfolio holder only

6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED

- 6.1 That the Portfolio Holder notes the report and agrees to the proposed approach by officers investigating the potential to pursue a Partnership Scheme application for the Stranton Conservation Area.

Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

**Subject: UPDATE ON PARTNERSHIP SCHEMES IN
CONSERVATION AREAS**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information to the Portfolio Holder on the recent correspondence from English Heritage regarding potential Partnership Schemes in Church Street and Stranton Conservation Areas.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A report was brought to the Portfolio Holder in March seeking authority to start the process of making an application to English Heritage for a grant of £300,000 under their Partnership Schemes in conservation areas to provide resources for building grants and funding for environmental works in Church Street and Stranton Conservation Areas.
- 2.2 Partnership Schemes in conservation areas are designed to target funding for the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas based on a partnership between English Heritage and a local authority. The Partnership Scheme could include investment from other public sources besides that from the Council. A scheme can make grants available to building owners to carry out eligible works and also undertake environmental improvements. Such schemes are aimed at conservation areas where the majority of properties are in retail and commercial use. Applications are by means of a three stage process which commenced in April 2009 and was due to finish in March 2010.
- 2.3 The expression of interest outlined a potential application for £300,000 of grant to be matched by public investment from the Council and if possible other public sources, with a total budget of £600,000.

3. ENGLISH HERITAGE RESPONSE

- 3.1 English Heritage considered the expressions of interest at an internal sifting meeting. They have provided feedback on the information submitted in the form of a letter in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2 In summary the letter provides positive feedback on the proposed scheme in Stranton noting that this would be a 'more concentrated scheme' and this 'had the most potential'. It states that the Church

Street scheme 'would cover a much larger area' and felt that for this to be considered the area 'would need to be tightened.'

- 3.3 The letter continues by stating that English Heritage felt that they could only 'support just one scheme within Hartlepool at one time'. Further to this concern is raised regarding the 'sustainability of any repair works and any public investment spent'. The letter observes that the new conservation policy which was agreed by the Planning Committee on the 19th February of this year, enabling the use of UPVC for windows in conservation areas subject to certain design criteria, means that 'any conservation investment made as part of an area grant scheme would be difficult to protect in the medium/long term'.
- 3.4 The letter concludes by suggesting that the Council may wish to continue with a detailed application to the Partnership Scheme but notes that this would have to show how the 'Council would minimise the risk to any investment through a management regime for the conservation area'.

4 PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

- 4.1 Given the advice from English Heritage it is proposed that officers investigate further the potential for a partnership scheme in the Stranton Conservation Area.
- 4.2 Further to this to address the concerns of English Heritage in protecting any potential investment in the area it is proposed that a short appraisal and management plan for the area is produced. Alongside this, advice could be provided in the form of leaflets on new shopfronts, signage, development of upper floors and the streetscape to ensure that consistent guidance on the standards required is readily available to all. Consideration will also be given to introducing an area of special advert control. The intention would be to consult with owners of properties within the conservation area to gauge their reactions to the proposed scheme and the potential guidance on development within the area prior to progressing any application.
- 4.3 English Heritage has been contacted regarding the content of the letter and further guidance requested. This may necessitate a change of approach; however this will be brought back to the Portfolio Holder if appropriate.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Should an application progress it would be in the form of a request for funding of approximately £180,000 over three years from English Heritage. This would need to be matched with funding from the Council or other public sources of investment which is under

investigation and will be covered in a future report to the Portfolio Holder. This would provide a total investment for the area of £360,000.

6 RECOMENDATION

- 6.1 That the Portfolio Holder notes the report and agrees to the proposed approach by officers investigating the potential to pursue a Partnership Scheme application for the Stranton Conservation Area.

APPENDIX 1



ENGLISH HERITAGE

NORTH EAST REGION

Mr Peter Graves
Conservation Officer
Dept of Regeneration & Planning
Hartlepool Borough Council
Bryan Hanson House
Hanson Square
Hartlepool
TS24 7BT

Direct Dial: 0191 269 1232
Your ref: PG/pg/_/2009
Our ref: PF6005/0002 & 3/0001
Date: 14 July 2009

Dear Peter

**PARTNERSHIP SCHEMES IN CONSERVATION AREAS APPLICATION
STRANTON AND CHURCH STREET**

Firstly I must apologise for the delay in writing to you following our internal grant sift meeting at which your applications were considered. I spoke to Sarah and passed on initial feedback but am now setting out our more detailed thoughts.

The applications were discussed at one of our grant sift meetings. We discussed both applications and felt that they could both work well and show potential.

Stranton: would be a more concentrated scheme looking mainly at the parade of shops – this could have a greater impact in this locality, particularly if the entire terrace could be restored.

Church Street: would cover a much larger area but is a key route through the town. We did feel however that the area which it covered would need to be tightened in order to increase the possible impact of any funding scheme. This proposal also included listed buildings which are outwith the conservation area boundary and therefore unfortunately ineligible for funding under a conservation area scheme.

We also felt that we could support just one scheme in Hartlepool at one time and felt that Stranton had the most potential in terms of the works required and the impact of a scheme.

Whilst it was agreed that both schemes have potential, there are serious concerns about the sustainability of any repair works and any public investment spent. We understand the Council's reasons for adopting its recently amended policy relating to replacement windows, however, this does mean that any conservation investment made as part of an area grant scheme would be difficult to protect in the medium/long term. As you are aware from the Headland Scheme, with any scheme, we do look to see that the partner Local Authority has strong conservation policies in place in order to protect the public investment made.

We have recently reviewed our Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas grant pack and I will forward the link to the new pack to you shortly. The changes are fairly minimal but

BESSIE SURTEES HOUSE, 41-44 SANDHILL, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE1 3JF

Telephone: 0191 269 1200 Fax: 0191 261 1130

English Heritage operates an access to information policy



ENGLISH HERITAGE

they do offer more flexibility which is a very positive step (for example, the requirement for no more than 40% of funding to be targeted towards architectural reinstatement has been removed).

If you feel that you would still like to continue with a detailed application on this basis (and we can obviously be flexible on the submission dates), we would need to see how the Council would minimise the risk to any investment through a management regime for the conservation area.

If you have any queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Catherine Dewar
Historic Areas Advisor
North East Region

COMMUNITY SAFETY & HOUSING PORTFOLIO

REPORT TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER

11 September 2009



Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: CONSERVATION AREAS AT RISK

SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information to the Portfolio Holder of the recent inclusion of three conservation areas from Hartlepool on the Heritage at Risk Register launched by English Heritage in June 2009.

2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

- 2.1 The report outlines the background to the document produced by English Heritage entitled 'Buildings at Risk'. This year the document has been extended to include conservation areas. As a result three of Hartlepool's Conservation Areas have been included on the at risk register.

3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

- 3.1 Conservation policy falls within the Portfolio.

4.0 TYPE OF DECISION

- 4.1 Non - key.

5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE

- 5.1 Portfolio holder only

6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED

- 6.1 That the Portfolio Holder notes the report

Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: CONSERVATION AREAS AT RISK

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information to the Portfolio Holder on the recent inclusion of three conservation areas from Hartlepool on the Heritage at Risk Register launched by English Heritage in June 2009.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 1998 English Heritage published the first buildings at risk register. The register includes listed buildings that are grade I and grade II* which are deemed to be at risk due to neglect or decay. The register is compiled using information provided by local authorities rather than English Heritage surveying the buildings themselves.
- 2.2 The register was expanded in 2008 to include scheduled ancient monuments, registered historic parks and gardens, registered battlefields and protected wreck sites. It also became known as the 'Heritage At Risk Register'.
- 2.3 This year in the 2009 register English Heritage have decided to include conservation areas. The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness of the existence of conservation areas, the issues that they face and how the local community can become involved in their management.

3. HERITAGE AT RISK REGISTER 2009

- 3.1 Conservation areas defined as being at risk are those which were judged to have deteriorated in the past three years or were likely to deteriorate in the next three years.
- 3.2 In Hartlepool the following three out of eight areas were deemed to be at risk:
- Church Street
 - Grange
 - Headland
- 3.3 The evidence used in informing the decision to place conservation areas at risk was collected in the summer of 2008. Since this time there have been some changes to the context in which these areas are considered. Most notably a clear policy is now available on UPVC

windows and financial assistance is being provided to properties in the Church Street Conservation Area for improvements.

4 RECOMENDATION

- 4.1 That the Portfolio Holder notes the report.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

Report To Portfolio Holder
11 September 2009



Report of: Head of Community Strategy

Subject: MIGRATION IMPACT FUND

SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise the Portfolio Holder of Hartlepool's successful submission to the Migration Impact Fund

2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report provides an outline to the background of the Migration Impact Fund and summarises how the successful bid will be taken forward

3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

All submissions to the fund required the endorsement of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). The LSP sits within this Portfolio.

4.0 TYPE OF DECISION

Item for information

5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE

The submission to the Migration Impact fund was endorsed by Portfolio Holder and the Hartlepool Partnership.

6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED

To note the progress made to date with regards to the submission.

Report of: Head of Community Strategy

Subject: MIGRATION IMPACT FUND

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Portfolio Holder of Hartlepool's successful submission to the Migration Impact Fund and outline how this will be progressed.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.2 The Government's *Path to Citizenship* Green Paper published in February 2008 set out that the Government will establish a fund to help local public services respond quickly and flexibly to ease short term pressures caused by inward, international migration. The fund was formally launched on 19 March 2009. It will run for up to 2 years, 2009-10 and 2010-11.
- 2.2 The North East will receive nearly £1.39 million to distribute among local service providers. The Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) have used Office of National Statistics data to determine the regional allocations. Regions with higher levels of migration or with less experience in dealing with its impacts have received more.
- 2.3 All providers, such as Police, Primary Care Trusts, Local Authorities and voluntary sector organisations, were eligible to apply. Applications required the endorsement of the relevant Local Strategic Partnership
- 2.4 Three Hartlepool bids were submitted to the fund; an Advice and Development Worker and a Health Trainer were submitted by Hartlepool Borough Council with the Hartlepool College of Further Education also making a separate submission. The bids were endorsed by the Hartlepool Partnership and the Portfolio Holder.

3. OUTLINE OF SUCCESSFUL SUBMISSION

- 3.1 Of these proposals only the Advice and Development worker was successful in securing funding. The overarching aims of this project are;
- To work with front line service providers to strengthen their understanding of the needs of Hartlepool's migrant communities;

- To support service providers to tailor their services to more effectively meet the identified needs of the local migrant community;
- To encourage migrant workers to actively engage in the wider community, through promoting volunteering and community involvement.

2.6 The worker will be managed by the New Deal for Communities (NDC) Assistant Programme Director with a work programme for the worker to be devised and overseen by a multi agency group with a key part of their role to work closely with key partners. This will increase the knowledge base of the Worker who will then be able to promote the current services to the migrant workers.
A copy of the bid submission is attached as **Appendix 1** which provides in more details the scope of the Advice and Development worker role.

2.7 It is envisaged that the worker will be appointed in September 2009

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Hartlepool Borough Council will be the accountable body for the funding. The funding allocation is £40,000 for year 1 (2009 / 10) and £55,000 for year 2 (2010 / 11). It should be noted that year 2 funding is provisional. CLG will be conducting a review of the Fund in the autumn before making a final decision on the size of the Fund for 2010/11.

4. RECOMENDATIONS

4.1 That the Portfolio holder notes the progress made to date on the Migration Impact Fund

APPLICATION FOR GRANT : MIGRATION IMPACTS FUND

GO Region	NORTH EAST
Accountable Body	Hartlepool Borough Council
Address	Bryan Hanson House
Account details for grant payment	Bank Account Name -Hartlepool Borough Council Bank Name – Co-operative Bank Plc Address – 2B Duke Street, Darlington, DL3 7AG Account Number – 61137763 Sort Code 08 90 42
Contact name	Joanne Smithson
Telephone	01429 284147
Email	Joanne.smithson@hartlepool.gov.uk
Name/address of Delivery Organisation - if different from Accountable Body	

Project detail

Project Title	Hartlepool Partnership: Advice & Development Outreach Worker.
<p>Project Objectives The project will employ an Advice & Development Outreach Worker to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide support and guidance to migrant workers and their employers, highlighting the range of support services currently available across Hartlepool and signposting access routes; • work with front line service providers to strengthen their understanding of the needs of Hartlepool's migrant communities; • support service providers to tailor their services to more effectively meet the identified needs of the local migrant community; • encourage migrant workers to actively engage in the wider community, through promoting volunteering and community involvement. <p>(i) Geographical coverage This project will work with migrant communities within Hartlepool and will work closely and share good practice with other programmes in the Tees Valley and North East</p> <p>(ii) Issues to be addressed The most recent household survey data for Hartlepool's town centre area provides evidence that our migrant population is growing. 5% of the people living in this area now identify themselves as mixed race, black, Asian, Chinese or from another ethnic group and 3% as white, but not British or Irish. The latter provides evidence of the significant Polish immigration to the town over the last two or three years. In the town centre 8% are identifying themselves as non white British or white "other". This has increased from 5% in 2006 and 4% in 2004. Further evidence of this growing diversity is the proportion of people who say that English is not their first language. This was 2% in 2004, 4% in 2006 and 6% in 2008.</p> <p>Identification of need</p>	

Members of the Hartlepool Partnership came together to review need and identify solutions to respond to the pressures caused by increasing inward, international migration in Hartlepool. Very few partners have significant experience of dealing with the impact of migration. It was agreed that employing an outreach worker to liaise between service providers and the migrant community would be a cost effective and efficient solution. The post holder will accelerate learning between partners and provide a resource for migrant workers and service providers alike.

Local context

Whilst there is no specific service for migrant workers in the town at present, some immigrants to Hartlepool do find their way to the Salaam Centre. This is a Resource Centre in central Hartlepool (the area of the town where most migrants settle), which provides advice, information and training and promotes community activities with and for the various minority communities in Hartlepool. Historically its work has been geared largely to meet the needs of recent and long-standing migrants from South Asia, mainly from Pakistan and Bangladesh. However, over the last three years they have made a very conscious effort to extend their services and their records show that they work with people from a widening variety of backgrounds (over 30 nationalities during the last year), in particular people from eastern Europe, especially Poland, the middle east, (Jordan and Iraq), the Philippines and Thailand as well as those from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Linked to this expanding role the centre has broadened the representation on its management committee and has developed plans to move its activities to a new larger premises, where they will be able offer a far wider range of activities in addition to their advice and information services. This new International Community Centre is being created in a disused church hall, which is being fully renovated by building trainees and will opened very early in 2010. The new centre will have a fitness room, a large hall, meeting rooms a kitchen, toilets and changing facilities. So, in addition to the advice services currently on offer it will be able to provide training, childcare, keep fit, dance, sports and other physical activities and promote and provide cross-cultural events.

The present resource centre is, and the new community centre will be, managed through a representative voluntary organisation. They are linked to statutory services, but are seen as independent from them. The centre has a good reputation amongst migrant communities with whom it already has good links. This project will ensure that the outreach worker has close links with the Salaam Centre and is able to build on and tap into its networks and its reputation.

Project details

In addition to providing outreach advice, guidance and signposting, the worker will complete 3 projects with key partners to develop skills, knowledge and understanding. The projects are shown in summary below and further detail is provided on subsequent pages:

- a) Liaising with migrant workers and their employers to ensure effective and successful employment;
- b) Working with the BME Lettings Group to strengthen information provision on housing eligibility and access to services;
- c) Promote learning and volunteering activities amongst migrant workers especially in relation to the Hartlepool Tall Ships Event in 2010

A. Supporting migrants in their working life

It is envisaged that the role of the outreach worker will include:

- Directly linking migrant workers to Hartlepool's Jobsmart Employment and Skills Consortium (which is managed by Economic Development Department) which has over 40 employment and training providers and statutory agencies who are committed to providing specialist services to key target areas and priority groups. A 'One Stop Employment Shop' was opened in September 2007 which is a first point of

contact for residents seeking to access employment and training opportunities. This Employment Shop has already been visited by over 2,000 residents who have registered with the service.

- Raising awareness of the availability of migrant workers to employers and the Jobsmart Consortium members.
- Raising awareness to migrant workers and employers of the Workers Registration Scheme which was introduced in 2004 when new countries joined the European Union.
- Liaising closely with Economic Development Department's Employment Relations Adviser who provides HR and employment law support to employers within Hartlepool
- Building links between the Tees Valley *Into Work and Aftercare Project* - (TV Unltd.) and migrant communities in Hartlepool;
- Carrying out research with migrants and employers to determine any common skills gaps and identify necessary training were required.
- Supporting employers to deliver language lessons as evidence suggests that fluency in English increases the chance that an ethnic minority immigrant in the UK is employed and is raises their likely earnings.;
- Targeting ESOL training support to those most in need will maximise the economic benefits of migration to Hartlepool.

B. Meeting housing need and improving advice & guidance

As part of the joint work between Housing Hartlepool and HBC Housing Services Team, a BME Lettings Group has been established to identify needs of the community. Initial work with the Group which has been strengthened by links with the Polish Community and the Salaam Centre has identified a lack of appropriate information to these groups relating to eligibility and access to information and services. This work could also diversify to involve the Private sector with a view to improve housing conditions to vulnerable and transient communities. With the introduction of Choice Based Lettings across Tees Valley this would work towards providing migrating communities with equality of opportunity within this process and improved access to housing across the Hartlepool area. In addition, the demise of the contracted Housing Provider for Refugees and Asylum Seekers, Kimberley Housing presents a gap which supported by this fund could begin to map out appropriate base-line information to housing needs for transient communities across Hartlepool. This work will add value to and support the broad aims of the proposals submitted by the Partnership.

C. Encouraging active citizenship and active engagement in the wider community

The outreach worker will spend time with Hartlepool's Adult Education Service to take forward activity in five key areas outlined below :

1. Identification of the common skills gaps which migrants may have. This would involve carrying out research with migrants and employers to determine where any gaps may be. It may be that non British qualifications do not quite match those required by employers and top up skills training would need to be provided.
2. The provision of ESOL courses has been delivered in a traditional way. More work needs to be done with migrant's employers and providers to ensure that any new provision is tailored to migrants needs. This may require more short intensive provision which gives migrants very quick competence in Basic English. If possible additional funding would need to be committed from providers to ensure free access.
3. There are at present a number of Volunteering opportunities across Teesside which are being developed. Some of these are part of regional and National projects. With the coming Tall Ships event in 2010 and the 2012 Olympics further Volunteering opportunities within Hartlepool and the North East are being developed. Liaison

needs to be further developed to ensure that Volunteering activities are promoted and encouraged for migrants.

4. Support for families is also key to assist in successful settlement. It would be useful to have set up family support network involving a range of agencies that can support new migrants and provide easier access into mainstream activities e.g. Kids clubs etc.
5. With any new migrants it is essential that there is a comprehensive welcome pack and process. This should be coordinated across the town and would involve many agencies. The pack as well as being informative could also include free access to a range of activities e.g. Free tickets to the theatre, football club, adult education etc.

In summer 2010 Hartlepool will be hosting the final leg of the Tall Ships race. A volunteers' programme is in place and funding has been secured to deliver training to over 300 local residents. The outreach worker will support members of Hartlepool's migrant community to take up these volunteering opportunities. This will bring migrants into greater contact with the wider community, increase social interaction, and provide an opportunity for migrant workers to improve their English language skills. The outreach worker will also promote take up of

(iii) Key partners

Hartlepool Borough Council	Housing Hartlepool
Hartlepool New Deal for Communities	Cleveland Police
Salaam Centre	Jobcentre Plus
Hartlepool Adult Education Service	

(iv) Partnership and delivery arrangements

The Salaam Centre employs a multi ethnic and multi lingual staff team who are managed through the Hartlepool New Deal for Communities Project (which provide most of their funding). This staff team is managed by the NDC Assistant Programme Director. It is proposed that the Migrant Advice and Information Worker is managed by the Programme Director. The Worker will offer their advice and information service via the Salaam Centre and the new Community Centre once it becomes available as this will enable the Migrant advice services to be fully integrated with the work of the Salaam Centre. A work programme for the worker will be devised and overseen by a multi agency group and a key part of their role will be to work closely with key partners. This will increase the knowledge base of the Worker who will then be able to promote the current services to the migrant workers.

(v) How partners will monitor progress

The project will contribute to the delivery of a key outcome in Hartlepool's LAA – Outcome 33 Freedom from discrimination & harassment. The programme will provide quarterly monitoring including reports submitted to the Working Group and LSP on performance to date. This information will be presented to the Working Group so that discussions may be undertaken on how best to improve the core offer. Progress will be reviewed by the Board and the Partnership's Performance Management Group that brings together the Chairs of Theme Partnerships.

(vi) Exit strategy

A central feature of the outreach worker's role will be to assist the Salaam Centre staff and management committee to develop service and build up expertise in this field. It is anticipated that the Community Centre will have an ongoing role developing and providing services for migrants to Hartlepool. This activity fits well with the mission of the new centre, which is to promote community cohesion and integration and support individual and groups from minority backgrounds. A key part of the exit strategy will therefore be to ensure that these activities are embedded in the work of the Centre by the end of 2010.

(vii) How partners will share learning

Learning and good practice will be shared locally within the Hartlepool Partnership, its Theme Partnerships, within Neighbourhood Forums and Youth Forums. The Hartlepool Partnership will also work with Regional Refugee Forum and the North East Strategic Migration Partnership. Case studies will be posted on the NE Active Citizenship Website.

Project Outputs

It is anticipated that the project will achieve the following outputs:


- Provide HR and employment law support to 50 employers within Hartlepool.
- Signposting 50 migrant workers and their families to specialist services to receive advice on their entitlement to benefits including Working Tax Credits (WTC).
- Carry out research with migrants and employers to determine any common skills gaps and identify necessary training were required.
- Promote and develop volunteering activities amongst 20 migrant workers especially in relation to the Hartlepool Tall Ships Event in 2010.
- Awareness raising events of migrant workers to employers and the Jobsmart Consortium members.
- 5 migrants to register with the Personal Best Volunteering programme.

Expected Outcomes

- Increase the take up rate of mainstream ESOL services by 10% each year.
- Increase the percentage of those registered with Hartlepool's Jobsmart Employment and Skills Consortium who are migrant workers by 10%
- Increase the percentage of volunteers registered with the Tall Ships programme who are migrant workers by 10%

Innovative practice

Hartlepool has not traditionally had significant experience of supporting migrant communities – the innovation in this approach is rapid learning across partners.

Total grant required	£ 95,000	
Worker plus on costs: Y1 (Sept – March); Y2 (April – March)	£19,378	£39,912
Contribution to NDC – host organisation for set up, management, equipment etc	5,000	0
Project Budget – meeting venues, publicity, communications etc	£10,622	£10,088
Training and Development activity with front line public sector workers	£5,000	£5,000
Total	£40,000	£55,000
Annual grant required if project is for more than 1 year	2009	2010
	£40,000	£55,000
Expected start date	July 2009	
Expected date of completion	March 2011	
Application completed by Delivery Organisation	Name	Joanne Smithson
	Signature	
	Date	30th April 2009
Application endorsed by Hartlepool LSP The Hartlepool Partnership	Name	Mayor Stuart Drummond
	Signature	
	Date	24th April 2009

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder

11 September 2009



Report of: Head of Procurement, Property and Public Protection

Subject: FAIRTRADE TOWN UPDATE

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Portfolio Holder of progress with the Fairtrade Town Initiative in Hartlepool.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report provides a background to the Fairtrade Town Initiative, information on the criteria to be met to achieve Fairtrade Town Status and an update on the work undertaken within Hartlepool which has enabled us to secure Fairtrade Town Status for a further two years to May 2011.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

Portfolio Holder has responsibility for environmental initiatives.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

The report is for information.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Portfolio Holder only.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

That the Portfolio Holder notes the report.

Report of: Head of Procurement, Property and Public Protection

Subject: FAIRTRADE TOWN UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Portfolio Holder of progress with the Fairtrade Town Initiative in Hartlepool.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Fair Trade Certification empowers farmers and farm workers to lift themselves out of poverty by investing in their farms and communities, protecting the environment, and developing the business skills necessary to compete in the global marketplace.

2.2 Fair Trade is about ensuring producers receive a fair price for their goods but the principles of Fair Trade are much wider and include:

- **Fair price:** farmers and farm co-operatives receive a guaranteed minimum floor price and an additional premium for certified organic products. Farmer organizations are also eligible for pre-harvest credit.
- **Fair working conditions:** Workers on Fair Trade farms enjoy safe working conditions, and living wages. Forced child labour is strictly prohibited.
- **Direct trade:** With Fair Trade, importers purchase from Fair Trade producer groups as directly as possible, eliminating unnecessary middlemen and empowering farmers to develop the business capacity necessary to compete in the global marketplace.
- **Community development:** Fair Trade farmers and farm workers invest Fair Trade premiums in social and business development projects like scholarship programs, quality improvement training, and organic certification.
- **Environmental sustainability:** Harmful agrochemicals and genetically modified organisms are strictly prohibited in favour of environmentally sustainable farming methods that protect farmers' health and preserve valuable ecosystems for future generations.

3. FAIRTRADE TOWN CERTIFICATION

3.1 In order to secure Fairtrade Town Status, the following five goals have to be achieved, and thereafter, continuous improvement should be evidenced.

- The Local Council must pass a resolution supporting Fairtrade and agree to provide Fairtrade coffee at its meetings
- A range (of at least two) Fairtrade products must be available in shops (1 per 5000 population) and in cafes/catering establishments (1 per 10.000) population
- Fairtrade products must be used by a number of workplaces and community organisations
- Media coverage and popular support for the campaign must be attracted and
- A local Fairtrade steering group must be convened to ensure continuous commitment to the campaign

4. FAIRTRADE IN HARTLEPOOL

4.1 Hartlepool first achieved 'Fairtrade Town' status in 2005. This was a major achievement for the town as we were the first of the four Teesside Boroughs to attain this.

4.2 The Fairtrade Town Steering Group, supported by the 'Hartlepool Global Peace and Justice Group' lead on the initiative. The group is supported by Hartlepool Borough Council and is attended by the Chairman of the Council. The Environmental Standards Section provide secretarial and practical support for the group.

4.3 In order to renew our Fairtrade Town status we needed to show continuing commitment to Fairtrade in the town. In the intervening years the number of retail outlets meeting the criteria has increased from 17 to 29, and cafes/restaurants from 9 to 16. Details of these premises can be found on the web site www.fairtradehartlepool.org.uk

4.4 Many Fairtrade events have also been held, often covered by the Hartlepool Mail such as:

- A public talk by George Alagiah at the Ahmadiyya Mosque
- Fairtrade jousting at Summerhill

- Fairtrade stalls in Middleton Grange, the Headland and at the Maritime Festival.
 - Three Fairtrade Ceilidhs including a Fairtrade bar
 - A Fairtrade 'Who wants to be a Millionaire' with a special recording by Chris Tarrant
 - A Fairtrade 'Ready, Steady Cook' with Krmo
 - A Fairtrade cake baked with the help of the Author Phillipa Gregory
 - The recent 'Go Bananas' event jointly with Stockton & Middlesbrough
- 4.5 There has also been much support from Hartlepool schools, and in particular Fens School who are aiming to be the first Fairtrade certified school in town.
- 4.6 The group has produced and distributed 5000 guides and car and window stickers.
- 4.7 As a result of the above, Hartlepool achieved Fairtrade Town status for a further two years until May 2011.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That the Portfolio Holder notes the report.

6. CONTACT OFFICER

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1 Church Street
Hartlepool

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Email: sylvia.tempest@hartlepool.gov.uk