

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Thursday, 24 September 2009

at 3.00 pm

In the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:
Councillors R W Cook, S Cook, Cranney, Gibbon, A E Lilley, London, McKenna,
Rogan, Wright

Resident Representatives:

John Lynch, Iris Ryder and 1 vacancy

- 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 20 August 2009.**
- 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. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Scrutiny Investigation into the Hartlepool Transport Interchange

7.1 Evidence from Transport Operators – *Scrutiny Support Officer*;

7.2 Evidence on future functionality for the Hartlepool Transport Interchange

(a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*; and

(b) Presentation by the Head of Technical Services.

7.3 Feedback from Site Visit held on 8 September 2009

(a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*; and

(b) Verbal Feedback from Site Visit to Hartlepool Transport Interchange held on 8 September 2009.

8. ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN

9. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

i) **Date of Next Meeting – Thursday, 5 November 2009 at 3.00 pm in the Council Chamber**

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM MINUTES

20 August 2009

The meeting commenced at 3.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Trevor Rogan (In the Chair)

Councillors: Rob W Cook, Kevin Cranney, Steve Gibbon, Alison Lilley,
Christopher McKenna and Edna Wright.

Resident Representatives:

John Lynch, Brian McBean and Iris Ryder.

Officers:

Dave Stubbs, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration and Planning Services
Stuart Green, Assistant Director (Planning and Economic
Development)
Antony Steinberg, Economic Development Manager
Dave Wilson, Principal Engineer (Construction)
James Walsh, Scrutiny Support Officer
Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

11. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Frances London.

12. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

13. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2009

Confirmed,

14. Responses from the Council, the Executive or Committees of the Council to Final Reports of this Forum – Portfolio Holder’s Response to the Marketing of Hartlepool *(Joint report of Director of Regeneration and Planning Services and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development.*

In the absence of the Portfolio Holder, the Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development) presented the report for Members’ consideration. The report provided feedback on the recommendations from the investigation into ‘The Marketing of Hartlepool’, which was reported to Cabinet on 13 July 2009. The Action Plan was attached by way of appendix and included details of each recommendation and the proposed actions to be taken forward following approval by Cabinet.

Decision

The content of the report and Action Plan were noted.

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

None.

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

None.

17. Six Monthly Monitoring of Agreed Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum’s Recommendations *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The Scrutiny Support Officer provided details of progress made on the delivery of the agreed scrutiny recommendations against investigations undertaken by the Forum since the 2005/06 municipal year. A summary report, attached at Appendix A, provided a break down on progress by investigation and Appendix B provided a detailed explanation of each recommendation that was either expected to achieve target or not expected to achieve target. It was noted that since the 2005/06 municipal year, 79.1% of the Forum’s recommendations had been achieved with 13.2% expected to be achieved. There were no actions that were not expected to be achieved.

A discussion ensued on the railway approaches and station and what improvements were still to be undertaken. The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services indicated that a number of issues highlighted during the

Scrutiny Forum's investigation into Railway Approaches in Hartlepool, were to be incorporated into the wider development of the Transport Interchange. However, in relation to the proposal to include art work on the wall opposite the platform within the current railway station, discussions were being held with the owners of the land to facilitate access to this area. There had been questions over the load-bearing capacity of this wall as well as the health and safety implications of allowing access to this area. The Director of Neighbourhood Services indicated that a lot of improvements had already been undertaken within the station and it was hoped that progress would be achieved in relation to the proposed installation of art work over the next 3-6 months.

Decision

That the progress against the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's agreed recommendations be noted.

18. Scrutiny Investigation into the Hartlepool Transport Interchange – Scoping Report (*Scrutiny Support Office*)

The Scrutiny Support Officer presented a scoping report for the Forum's investigation into the Hartlepool Transport Interchange which included the following issues for consideration by the Forum:

Overall aim of the scrutiny investigation/enquiry

To gain an understanding of the current development milestones for the Hartlepool Transport Interchange, identifying transport operator attitudes and functionality options.

Proposed terms of reference for the investigation/enquiry

The following Terms of Reference for the investigation were proposed:-

- (a) To gain an understanding of the current development position of the Hartlepool Transport Interchange and the future milestones for the project;
- (b) To seek the views of transport operators in relation to usage of the Hartlepool Transport Interchange; and
- (c) To explore future functionality plans for the Hartlepool Transport Interchange site.

Potential areas of enquiry / sources of evidence

- (a) Cabinet Member with Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development;
- (b) Cabinet Member with Portfolio Holder for Transport and

- Neighbourhoods;
- (c) Director of Neighbourhood Services;
- (d) Director of Regeneration and Planning Services;
- (e) Network Rail;
- (f) Local Bus Companies;
- (g) Local residents; and
- (h) Ward Councillors.

Proposed timetable of the scrutiny investigation

The proposed timetable for the review to be undertaken, although this may be subject to change at any stage:-

20 Aug 2009 Formal Meeting of the Forum to Receive:-

- (i) Scoping Report; and
- (ii) Setting the Scene Report – To cover the history of the development of Hartlepool Transport Interchange, current position and future timescales.

August / September – Site Visit

24 Sept 2009 Formal Meeting of the Forum to Receive:-

- (i) Views from transport operators towards usage of Hartlepool Transport Interchange;
- (ii) Evidence on future functionality for Hartlepool Transport Interchange;
- (iii) Feedback from Site Visit

5 Nov 2009 Consideration of Draft Final Report by Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

27 Nov 2009 Consideration of Final Report by Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

11 Jan 2010 Consideration of Final Report by the Cabinet (tentative date)

A resident representative raised concerns in relation to the personal safety implications for people using the transport interchange. The Director of Neighbourhood Services indicated that the personal safety of users of the interchange was paramount to the whole design and CCTV would be installed around the site.

Decision

That the scoping report for this Scrutiny investigation be agreed.

19. The Hartlepool Transport Interchange – Setting the Scene Presentation – Covering Report *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The Director of Neighbourhood Services gave a detailed and comprehensive presentation which provided the background and history to the development of the transport interchange along with the design principals, current position and key milestones to completion. It was noted that a review of the original design had been undertaken and included a reduction in bus provision, additional car parking for the future planned metro link, improved traffic management measures and stairs to Gateway Bridge for improved pedestrian links to Marina Way leisure and retail area. In response to a Member's question, the Director of Neighbourhood Services informed Members that to install a ramp to Gateway Bridge would involve a path criss-crossing to provide for the appropriate gradient for disabled access and this would result in the ramp being a longer route than exiting the interchange and crossing the bridge by the current route.

Members were informed that coaches would be encouraged to use the interchange as a drop off/pick up point. Taxis would also be encouraged to use the area as a waiting area or rank. It was noted that the public car parking within the interchange would be a pay and display car park.

A Member sought clarification on whether Stagecoach would be using the interchange. The Director of Neighbourhood Services responded that it was hoped that the interchange would become the hub of public transport and as such discussions were on-going with Stagecoach to facilitate their full use of the area.

Decision

The report and presentation were noted.

20. Issues Identified from Forward Plan

None.

21. Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was reported that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 24 September 2009 at 3.00pm in the Council Chamber.

The meeting concluded at 3.50 pm.

CHAIR

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

24 September 2009



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION THE HARTLEPOOL
TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE -- EVIDENCE
FROM TRANSPORT OPERATORS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To consider written evidence collated from the responses of the transport operators in Hartlepool in relation to the ongoing inquiry into the Hartlepool Transport Interchange.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 20 August 2009, the Terms of Reference and Potential Areas of Inquiry / Sources of Evidence for this Scrutiny investigation were approved by the Forum.
- 2.2 Consequently at the time of writing this report, written evidence is being collated from the transport operators in Hartlepool, attached as **Appendix A** to this report, and an open invitation offered to transport operators in Hartlepool to present their views to the Forum in relation to their potential usage of the Hartlepool Transport Interchange.
- 2.3 However, in accordance with the Authority's Access to Information Rules, it has not been possible to include the written evidence from the transport operators in Hartlepool within the statutory requirements for the despatch of the agenda and papers for this meeting. Although, arrangements have been made for the written evidence from the transport operators in Hartlepool to be circulated under separate cover and in advance of this meeting.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Members of the Forum note the content of this report and the written evidence from the transport operators in Hartlepool, attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

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

The following background paper was used in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into the Hartlepool Transport Interchange – Scoping Report' Presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 20 August 2009.

Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum
investigation into the Hartlepool Transport Interchange

1. As a transport operator in Hartlepool will you be using the facilities on offer once they are complete?

Very much so, we already drop off / pick up about 70 clients per day opposite the college & 'Clasman' layby, coming in & out of Hartlepool

2. What benefits do you think that the Hartlepool Transport Interchange will bring to your business and your customers?

First of all, it will bring us up to date with other towns of our size AND most smaller towns.

3. Are there any facilities currently not shown on the plan that you would welcome being developed as part of the Hartlepool Transport Interchange site?


Drop off / pick up point for Private Hire vehicles.

The only area seems to be in Church St which penalises old people who would have to walk there.

4. Is there anything else you would like to add?

well done, better late than never. !

Signed.....



Company.....

23 Taxis.....

The Regeneration and Services Scrutiny Forum meets on Thursday 24 September at 3.00pm, if you would like to present your views to the Forum then please contact James Walsh by Tel: 01429 523647 or Email: james.walsh@hartlepool.gov.uk

Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum
Investigation into the Hartlepool Transport Interchange

1. As a transport operator in Hartlepool will you be using the facilities on offer once they are complete?

Stagecoach North East is currently reviewing the practicalities of its Hartlepool services utilising the facilities provided by the new interchange. This will involve an assessment of any additional journey time required to access and egress the location and whether this can be accommodated within the time available in the current schedules.

2. What benefits do you think that the Hartlepool Transport Interchange will bring to your business and your customers?

Improvements in passenger facilities offering opportunities for interchange between modes can be beneficial to the perceived public transport offering of a town, breaking down barriers to travel. This in turn can lead to an increase in the use of public transport, providing greater network stability and helping to support much needed growth in local economies.

3. Are there any facilities currently not shown on the plan that you would welcome being developed as part of the Hartlepool Interchange site?

4. Is there anything else you would like to add?

We would welcome the opportunity for ongoing briefings regarding the development of this facility and, in particular, updates on the nature, level, and anticipated timescales of other modes of transport planned to serve it (and an understanding of potential passenger flows generated by them) with which local bus services could integrate.

Signed: Robin F. Knight

Company: Stagecoach North East

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your views to the forum then please contact James Walsh by Tel:
01429 523647 or email: james.walsh@hartlepool.gov.uk**

Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum
investigation into the Hartlepool Transport Interchange

1. As a transport operator in Hartlepool will you be using the facilities on offer once they are complete? **YES**

2. What benefits do you think that the Hartlepool Transport Interchange will bring to your business and your customers?

IMPROVED FACILITIES LEADS TO INCREASED
PASSENGER NUMBERS DUE TO THE ADDED
SECURITY BENEFITS PROVIDED.

3. Are there any facilities currently not shown on the plan that you would welcome being developed as part of the Hartlepool Transport Interchange site?

TIMETABLE HOLDERS, INFOCENTRE, RIGHT
TURN FOR BUSES ONLY INTO INTERCHANGE
RATHER THAN LOOPING AROUND ROUNDABOUT.

4. Is there anything else you would like to add?

ARE DRIVER FACILITIES PROVIDED - I.E
TOILETS FOR DRIVERS ETC.

Signed Adam Company GO NORTH EAST

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your views to the Forum then please contact James Walsh by
Tel: 01429 523647 or Email: james.walsh@hartlepool.gov.uk**

**REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY
FORUM**

24 September 2009



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION THE HARTLEPOOL
TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE -- EVIDENCE ON
THE FUTURE FUNCTIONALITY OF THE
HARTLEPOOL TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE –
COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Forum that the Authority's Head of Technical Services has been invited to attend this meeting to provide evidence in relation to the ongoing inquiry into the Hartlepool Transport Interchange.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 20 August 2009, the Terms of Reference and Potential Areas of Inquiry / Sources of Evidence for this Scrutiny investigation were approved by the Forum.
- 2.2 Consequently the Head of Technical Services from Hartlepool Borough Council has agreed to attend this meeting to provide a presentation in relation to the future functionality of the Hartlepool Transport Interchange.
- 2.3 During this evidence gathering session with the Head of Technical Services it is suggested that responses should be sought to the following key questions:-
- (a) How will the Hartlepool Transport Interchange develop to accommodate pedestrian, cyclist, bus, taxi and coach users?
 - (b) In what way will the future functionality of the Hartlepool Transport Interchange ensure that it can meet the potential requirements of the Tees Valley Metro?

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Members of the Forum consider the views of the Head of Technical Services from Hartlepool Borough Council in attendance at this meeting in relation to the questions outlined in Section 2.3 of this report.

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

The following background paper was used in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into the Hartlepool Transport Interchange – Scoping Report' Presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 20 August 2009.

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

24 September 2009



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO THE
HARTLEPOOL TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE –
FEEDBACK FROM SITE VISIT – COVERING
REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To facilitate a discussion amongst Members of this Forum in relation to feedback received as a result of the Site Visit to the Hartlepool Transport Interchange site.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 As part of the evidence gathering process for the undertaking of the inquiry into the Hartlepool Transport Interchange, a site visit to the site of the Hartlepool Transport Interchange was held on 8 September 2009 to gather evidence on the scope of the current developments and where future development will occur on site. Written evidence gathered from this site visit is attached to this report as **Appendix A**.
- 2.2 In line with good practice, Members of this Forum who were in attendance are requested to share / discuss their findings at today's meeting.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Members of the Forum note the content of this report and the written evidence from the site visit to the site of the Hartlepool Transport Interchange held on 8 September 2009 as detailed in **Appendix A**.
- 3.2 That Members of the Forum discuss their findings from the Site Visit as outlined in paragraph 2.1 of this report.

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

There were no background papers referred to in the preparation of this report.

APPENDIX A

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM – SITE VISIT TO THE HARTLEPOOL TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE

8 September 2009

Notes

Present:

Councillors: Steve Gibbon
Peter Jackson, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Neighbourhoods

Resident Representatives:
Iris Ryder

Officers: Alastair Smith, Head of Technical Services
Dave Wilson, Principal Engineer (Construction)
Brendon Colarossi, Senior Engineer (Construction)
James Walsh, Scrutiny Support Officer

Investigation into the Hartlepool Transport Interchange

As part of the evidence gathering process, Members of the Forum visited the site of the Hartlepool Transport Interchange.

The findings of Members of the Forum who undertook the visit were as follows:-

- The railway station will maintain its Victorian theme once the work is completed;
- Currently the platform at the far side of the station (see picture to the right) is being dug up as part of new signalling work that is required;
- Due to the cost of the work and the lack of footfall numbers, Network Rail have decided that the platform at the far side of the station will be developed to a standard, with the inclusion of planters and lightweight casings to hold artwork of a poster specification on the existing wall;
- Currently negotiation is taking place with Network Rail to allow access for suitable personnel to maintain the planters and change the art work when necessary on the unused platform;



APPENDIX A

- Due to the cost of reviewing the redundant platform it has been decided to concentrate on the spur leading off the main platform for any future Tees Valley Metro; (see picture to the right);
- Using this spur of line will ensure that DDA access to the Tees Valley Metro can be ensured, rather than the more difficult solution of upgrading the platform at the far side of the station;
- The introduction of the Tees Valley Metro should also see more resurfacing of the platform and probably the installation of a new canopy;
- The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Neighbourhoods requested that all developments with the Hartlepool Transport Interchange and the potential introduction of the Tees Valley Metro were mindful of linking into the Marina area of the Town;
- The development of the station will also involve the implementation of a tannoy system;
- Work has started at the Western end of the site (see picture to the right) to clear the area by removing scrub bushes and trees before levelling work can commence;
- The most technical part of the Western development of the site will be the filling in of the underpass (see picture to the right), which is currently unused, the filling in of the underpass is likely to take 2 weeks to complete with Network Rail being concerned that there are no voids once underpass is filled in;
- Real time information on transport operators using the interchange will be displayed in the Western end car park, at each bus stop and within the railway station;
- Low cover ivy and other suitable landscaping, CCTV and cycleways will be a feature of the site;
- Development at the Eastern end of the site has included some possible business car parking spaces and the created of a maintenance compound for Network Rail (see picture above right).

