

REGENERATION AND LIVEABILITY PORTFOLIO

DECISION SCHEDULE



HARTLEPOOL
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Friday 20th January, 2006

at 10.00 am

in Committee Room "A"

The Mayor Stuart Drummond responsible for Regeneration and Liveability will consider the following items.

1. KEY DECISIONS

- 1.1 Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) – Programme 2006-8 – *The Head of Community Strategy*

2. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 2.1 Remit and Membership of the Proposed Conservation Area Advisory Committee– *Director of Regeneration and Planning Services*
2.2 Pride in Hartlepool Proposals – *Head of Environmental Management*
2.3 Additional Powers for Community Wardens –*Head of Environmental Management*

3. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 3.1 Single Programme Approvals – *The Head of Regeneration*

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- 4.1 None

5. REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY FORUMS

- 5.1 None

EXEMPT ITEMS

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

6. KEY DECISION

- 6.1 None

7. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 7.1 None

REGENERATION & LIVEABILITY PORTFOLIO

Report To Portfolio Holder

20th January 2006



Report of: The Head of Community Strategy

Subject: NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND (NRF)
PROGRAMME 2006-08

SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback on the NRF Evaluation, seek agreement to the continuation of successful interventions for 2006-08, subject to full appraisal, and agree to allocate £430,000 to the Lifelong Learning Partnership from the Jobs & Economy NRF allocation as agreed by the Hartlepool Partnership.

2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report outlines the findings from the NRF Programme Evaluation completed in December 2005. The report sets out the case for an allocation to the Hartlepool Lifelong Learning Partnership from the Jobs & Economy allocation. On the basis of the independent evaluation and Best Practice Workshops held during October and November 2005 recommendations are made on the future interventions to be funded through NRF for 2006-08.

3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

Neighbourhood Renewal and NRF is within the remit of the Regeneration & Economy Portfolio.

4.0 TYPE OF DECISION

Key, test (II) applies.

5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Portfolio Holder decision.

6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED

The Portfolio Holder is recommended endorse the decision of the Hartlepool Partnership Board by

- noting the findings of the NRF evaluation
- agreeing to approve in principle to fund the ‘employment sensitive posts’ and other projects outlined in the report, subject to full appraisal and final approval; and
- agreeing to allocate the Lifelong Learning Partnership £430,000 from the Jobs & Economy allocation to target the skills agenda.

Report of: The Head of Community Strategy

Subject: NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND (NRF)
PROGRAMME 2006-08

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide feedback on the NRF Evaluation, seek agreement to the continuation of successful interventions for 2006-08, subject to full appraisal, and agree to allocate £430,000 to the Lifelong Learning Partnership from the Jobs & Economy NRF allocation as agreed by the Hartlepool Partnership.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 In July 2005 Government Office announced that Hartlepool would continue to receive NRF for a further two years. Hartlepool will receive £4,830,926 in 2006-07 and a further £4,375,218 in 2007-08.

2.2 The Portfolio Holder agreed the 2006/08 themed priorities on 21st October 2005, as follows:

Jobs & Economy – 28%	Community Safety – 26%
Health & Care – 19%	Education – 10%
Environment & Housing – 5%	NAP Priorities – 5%
Community Network – 1.5%	Community Chest – 2%
Management & Consultation – 3.3%	

2.3 Thematic Best Practice Workshops were held during October and November at which the evaluation findings and emerging priorities were discussed.

2.4 The evaluation reports are available to view on www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk/thepartnership/meetings/16december2005.

3. EVALUATION FINDINGS

3.1 The evaluation of the current programme was undertaken by two organisations. CLES Consulting carried out reviews of the Jobs & Economy, Environment & Housing and Health themes, while the NDC Evaluation Team undertook the evaluation of the Community Safety and Education themes. CLES also looked generally at the overall programme and how it was administered.

3.2 Key programme findings were:

Headline Impact

NRF in Hartlepool has:

- Increased the intensity of existing activity;
- Acted as a source for innovation and piloting;
- Helped specially targeted activity;
- Enhanced cross-cutting thinking and intervention development;
- Been a strategic fund to match with other regeneration activity;
- Been administered and monitored as a strategic fund; and
- Been a cohesive programme with sophisticated levels of interaction.

Quantitative and Qualitative Impacts

NRF in Hartlepool has:

- Balance between the two; and
- Engendered deep rooted cultural change.

Strong Local Identity

Hartlepool has:

- A significant track record of working in partnership;
- An innovative 'can do' attitude; and
- A sense of collective endeavour.

Management & Governance

The NRF programme:

- Is well managed and competently steered; and
- Has Theme Partnerships ready to take on more responsibility.

Monitoring & Evidence

The Evaluators felt that:

- Stronger relationships between monitoring, outputs and targets was required;
- There is a need to draw on a wider evidence base, in a more systematic and rigorous way.

Mainstreaming

The Evaluators felt that:

- Whilst mainstreaming is recognised as a high priority, it needs to be embedded in everyday thinking.

4. JOBS & ECONOMY THEME

- 4.1 The evaluation found Jobs & Economy to be an excellent theme, which is making inroads into the key floor targets.
- 4.2 The Best Practice Workshop for this theme was held on the 28th October 2005. The main thrust of the workshop was about how to engage better with the worklessness agenda. While it has been recognised in the CLES evaluation that a number of projects are tentatively developing new approaches to engaging this client base, much more substance is needed to come from these projects over the next two year allocation of NRF. In analysing the set of interventions to deal with the worklessness agenda projects dealing with each step in the progression into work need to be considered and in this there appears to be a much stronger role for the voluntary sector. Projects need to deal with motivation, sustainability of employment, and skills and training.
- 4.3 The Workshop highlighted that there could be a greater role for Social Enterprise development in Hartlepool. Further issues of gaining a balance between grant dependence and independence for these type of businesses needs to be discussed in more detail by the Economic Forum, especially in light of the current economic slowdown. One area of currently untapped potential for the development of the Social Enterprise sector is in the procurement of public services. Further work needs to be undertaken to examine what role the third sector can play in public procurement in Hartlepool.
- 4.4 A number of issues were raised about existing business stock and the large number of businesses operating around the VAT threshold. It was agreed that greater support could be directed at these businesses to develop higher impact against the Floor Target.
- 4.5 An Economic Forum Sub-Group met on 5th December 2005 to consider the findings from the evaluation and the workshop. It was agreed to recommend to the Partnership Board that the following existing 'employment sensitive' projects be approved in principle for continued NRF for 2006-08, subject to formal appraisal and strengthening outputs and outcomes linked to worklessness –
- Hartlepool Working Solutions
 - Work Route
 - Enhancing Employability
 - Progression to Work
 - Volunteering into Employment

- 4.6 It is also recommended that funding be set aside for the following interventions to improve VAT registrations –
- Incubation System & Business Skills Training
 - Business & Tourism Marketing
 - OFCA Social Enterprise Support
- 4.7 The overall funding to the Jobs & Economy Theme is £2,580,000 for 2006-08. It is recommended later in this report that £430,000 be allocated to the Lifelong Learning Partnership to tackle skills issues. This leaves £2,150,000 to be allocated by the Economic Forum.
- 4.8 Initial estimates of the value of these ‘worklessness’ projects is costed at approx. £1,120,000 for 2006-08. The total value of the ‘VAT Registration’ Projects is £385,000. In addition it is recommended to allocate £300,000 during 2006-08 for the delivery of Employment Outreach provision through the Voluntary & Community Sector in response to the CLES recommendation for this sector to have a stronger role in the achievement of floor targets.
- 4.9 During early 2006 the Economic Forum will consider the broad options for allocating the remaining £325,000, and recommendations brought to the Portfolio Holder in early 2006.

5. LIFELONG LEARNING & SKILLS THEME

- 5.1 At the Hartlepool Partnership meeting on 16th September 2005 it was agreed that the Jobs & Economy theme should include funding for upskilling to provide Hartlepool with a good workforce for the future. It is recommended that £430,000 from the Jobs & Economy allocation be focussed upon improving skills, and that responsibility for developing this programme be with the Lifelong Learning Partnership. This allocation is in line with the current level of NRF funding focussing upon improving skills.
- 5.2 There are three skills-related projects in the 2004-6 NRF programme. They are the Basic Skills Online project, Study Support Tutor and Learning Mentor scheme. Through the evaluation each of these projects was deemed to have achieved a degree of success and will now be picked up, to some degree, by mainstream agencies and will no longer require NRF funding.
- 5.3 At the Lifelong Partnership meeting on 2nd December 2005 it was agreed to develop the priorities within their theme in time for discussion and agreement at their next meeting in January 2006.

6. EDUCATION THEME

- 6.1 The evaluation of the current NRF Education Theme demonstrated the positive impact NRF is having on delivering upon key targets. The Evaluation states that;

‘Overall, there can be no doubt that the projects funded through this theme are successful. The evidence indicates that the funds that are directed to schools (80% of the total in this theme) are being used by these schools to provide extra support for NRF pupils and that these resources are helping to boost the attainment of these pupils. The fact that the challenging attainment targets set are on course to be met is even more impressive when the outstanding performance of the town’s pupils as a whole is taken into account. Despite the fact that pupils across Hartlepool are recording attainment levels that are above the national average at KS2 and increasingly close to the national average at KS3 and KS4, the NRF pupils continue to narrow the gap between the NRF areas and the whole of the town’

- 6.2 The Education Best Practice Workshop was held on 7th November 2005. The positive evaluation twinned with a reduction in the allocation for the Education theme means that prioritisation is a particular challenge. Work is currently underway evaluating the success of particular schools on the deployment of NRF. Elements of the current programme are to be mainstreamed and there is a general consensus that NRF funded Attendance and Behavioural Support activities are currently well served by existing mainstream provision.
- 6.3 A report will be brought to the Portfolio Holder in early 2006 with the recommended programme for the Education NRF Programme for consideration.

7. HEALTH THEME

- 7.1 There are currently 17 projects being funded through the current NRF Health Programme. The Evaluation undertaken by CLES was positive about the achievements of the projects but highlighted that:

“...there has been the development of a broad range of interventions and it is acknowledged, that the resources are argued to have been spread too thinly to achieve any critical mass. A smaller number of projects with greater resources may make a more significant impact”.

- 7.2 CLES also commented that the activities of the current projects were difficult to relate directly to the floor targets and that future activities need to be more focused on the floor targets with recorded outputs being directly linked to them.

- 7.3 The Best Practice Workshop held on 10th November 2005 was insightful as the North East Public Health Observatory (NEPHO) outlined that even if current targets relating to Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) and Cancer are achieved the gap between the Hartlepool and England life expectancy will not be closed. However, it was highlighted that the biggest potential gains in terms of improving life expectancy would be to focus on CHD and Cancer and exceed on the targets set.
- 7.4 A sub group of the Health & Care Strategy Group met on the 13th December. The report sets out a number of employment sensitive projects. It was agreed that Belle Vue, Mental Health Development, and the Dyke House and Owton Rossmere Health Development workers continue to receive funding for 2006-08. The value of the Mobile Maintenance Worker was acknowledged but it is recommended that this post is only funded for 6 months as the funding could be used for a wider low level support project (subject to support from the HCSG and LSP in 2006). A decision to continue funding the Addlink project was deferred until the new year due to the non-submission of monitoring returns being received to evidence the true value of this project. The approximate value of these projects is £400,000 for 2006 to 2008.
- 7.5 The Health & Care Strategy Group agreed at their meeting on 17th November to focus the NRF around the five Local Area Agreement (LAA) Outcomes contained within the Health & Care Outcome Framework. It was agreed that funding be provisionally allocated to each of these with the largest proportion focussing on the 'Improving Health' outcome, due to its obvious links with improving life expectancy. The other outcome areas are:
- Older People e.g. Low-level support, tele care
 - Children's Health e.g. child obesity, sexual health
 - Mental Well Being e.g. social prescribing
 - Access to Services e.g. NAPs and primary care
- 7.6 At a number of Best Practice Workshops the need for low-level support activities was emphasised. This has been also been stressed at Hartlepool Partnership Board meetings on a regular basis. The current Mobile Maintenance Worker project within the Health & Care theme provides one element of low-level support activity and the Community Safety theme supports another element through its NRF allocation. There are also low-level support activities provided through NDC and by partner organisations in the Borough including Housing Hartlepool. It is recommended that opportunities to join up and enhance low level support be considered as a priority in the NRF area.

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY THEME

- 8.1 The Community Safety Best Practice Workshop was held on 9th November 2005. The key findings from the evaluation were that the achievements of the Crime and Community Safety NRF Programme in contributing towards the reductions in recorded crime and in increased feelings of security in the NRF areas should be recognised and celebrated.
- 8.2 In considering further NRF funding for the projects in this theme the evaluation set out the following points to be considered:
- Diversionary projects ought to be able to demonstrate how they are targeting their work at those at risk of becoming involved in criminal or anti social activity. If they are not able to do so then funding should not be continued from within this theme;
 - Whilst the Community Wardens Project is clearly successful, its long term future is in doubt. If it is to receive further support from the NRF the project needs to demonstrate that it can establish an initial and expanding level of funding from mainstream sources; and
 - Projects that seek to address the growing concern in the area about levels of drug use and drug dealing should be considered for NRF support.
- 8.3 At the Best Practice Workshop Supt. Steve Ashman gave a presentation on a new neighbourhood-policing model that aims to bring the Police closer to the community with dedicated Police officers for each neighbourhood. Through a named contact is expected to bring more confidence in the service, develop community intelligence links and reduce fear of crime. Hartlepool has been selected as a pilot and the organisational structures are due to be rolled out in April 2006.
- 8.4 As part of the Hartlepool Neighbourhood Policing Pilot Programme an additional 21 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) can be available for Hartlepool from April 2006. NRF funding would need to be used to lever additional funding from the Home Office for these PCSOs and the pilot programme can either be funded for two or three years. The total NRF commitment for three years would be £546,000, which would lever an investment of £956,000 from the Home Office. A two year programme would require NRF of £417,000, and lever an investment of £417,000. Therefore the three year programme, utilising NRF over 2 years is better value for money. The Board are recommended to agree in principle to allocate £546,000 to fund the Neighbourhood Policing Pilot, subject to formal appraisal.

- 8.5 This recommended level of commitment from NRF clearly utilises a significant amount of the available budget and the viability of funding this project and retaining the wardens project that also commands a significant amount of funding needs to be considered. A number of options and issues were raised at the Best Practice Workshop that need further discussion including;
- The potential for the additional PCSOs to take on some of the roles of the wardens;
 - The option of scaling down the wardens project, and if this was considered possible or not;
 - The mainstream commitment to the wardens service;
 - The potential for the growing Environmental Enforcement teams to take on some of the wardens role;
 - The nature of a future wardens service, and the already proposed changes to the role.
- 8.6 All of these issues need consideration in deciding the future role of the warden scheme which has been very successful and is a well liked service across the neighbourhoods of Hartlepool. NRF however is a fund intended for the piloting and testing of new approaches and the Neighbourhood Policing model presents an excellent opportunity to embrace this and lever in significant funding to increase the number of uniformed officers on the street. These additional PCSOs would be expected to make a significant impact on levels of crime and anti social behaviour and also fear of crime.
- 8.7 However, we know from the recent Viewpoint survey that what concerns residents most are environmental issues such as dog fouling and littering. Refocusing the role of wardens into these areas, together with enforcement powers was discussed at the Best Practice Workshop and agreed as a possible future role.
- 8.8 The Neighbourhood Policing model requires closer links to the community. The lessons learnt from Hartlepool's previous experience with the Home Office funded co-ordinator for the Policing Priority Area in Burbank, together with the experience, albeit limited to one year's NRF, from the Community Co-ordination project was agreed as a priority at the Best Practice Workshop. Therefore it is recommended that the Community Co-ordination project (which employs a co-ordinator) should be continued in 2006-2008.
- 8.9 However, the evaluation did also highlight interventions that were making an impact upon tackling anti-social behaviour and at the workshop it was agreed that the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer and the Anti-Social Behaviour Analyst posts be supported and as such it is recommended that these employment sensitive posts are approved in principle subject to formal appraisal. The report to the Safer Hartlepool Executive also sets out the recommended approval for the employment sensitive NRF funded Monitoring Assistant.

- 8.10 The Evaluation highlighted a number of positive NRF interventions that were clearly linked to reductions in crime and it is recommended that these continue during 2006-08. These include
- Safer Streets and Homes Project that has funded improved street lighting, alleygates, security improvements to homes of victims of domestic burglary, and area based security in burglary hot-spots (e.g. dusk to dawn lights, fencing)
 - Dordrecht programme for prolific offenders.
 - Burglary prevention project has focused on walk-in burglaries.
- 8.11 There are a number of projects where further work needs to be undertaken to assess the impact. The evaluation found a number of projects aimed at reducing anti social behaviour were not evidencing impact and were questioned as to whether those benefiting from the project were actually involved in anti-social behaviour. It is recommended that the projects outlined below are further reviewed and develop new project appraisals, which show clearly how the project contributes to at least one of the LAA outcomes. These are:-
- Community wardens scheme, where the evaluation recommends that the long term future of the service needs to be thoroughly assessed before further resources are committed
 - COOL scheme
 - Community Safety grant fund provides up to £500 for resident and community groups to carry out local activities, which contribute to community safety.
 - FAST (Families accessing support together) is a collaborative project between five local voluntary organisations, which aims to provide holistic support to families whose children are involved in low-level anti-social behaviour.
 - Landlord Accreditation scheme provides funding for an employee to manage the voluntary scheme to accredit private sector landlords whose properties meet the required standards.
- 8.12 In the case of the warden scheme, the new project appraisal should include environmental enforcement, in addition to crime prevention, as a suitable role for a revised scheme.
- 8.13 Within the NRF Evaluation the issue of drugs, drug dealing and the perceptions of drug related issues emerged as an issue for the community on a number of occasions as a priority area that requires greater resources devoted to it. The Safer Hartlepool Partnership will consider this early in 2006.

- 8.14 There is a need to link with other themes where projects have direct cross cutting issues. Within both the Health and Housing Themes there is a demand for enhancing low level support to households across all tenures. Interventions currently delivered through NRF such as the Endeavour Repaircare 'Man in the Van'. project and elements of the target hardening programme have the scope to be included within a more coordinated low level support scheme.

9. ENVIRONMENT THEME

- 9.1 The Environment Best Practice Workshop was held on 7th November 2005. It was agreed that the Environmental Action Team approach was successful and efforts be made to deliver this in other NAP areas. This approach would rely on match-funding from additional sources to widen the area that the Teams could operate within. It is recommended that £193,000 be allocated to this intervention for 2006-08. It is also recommended that £40,000 be provisionally allocated to improving environmental education given in schools, either on a town-wide basis or at one particular school. This approach was agreed at the Environment Partnership meeting on 17th November 2005.

10. HOUSING THEME

- 10.1 The Housing Best Practice Workshop was held on 10th November 2005. The current programme supports a team working with residents to deliver Housing Market Renewal in North Central Hartlepool. The team has been crucial in working closely with residents and are based in the Dyke House neighbourhood. Further funding to continue Housing Market Renewal work in the neighbourhood is likely to be forthcoming from Tees Valley Living for 2006 onwards, and support for the project is required as this is an employment sensitive scheme.
- 10.2 The Housing Partnership met on 7th December 2005 and agreed to recommend to the Partnership Board that the £233,000 Housing allocation be used to provide continued support towards the delivery of Housing Market Renewal in North Central Hartlepool.

11. FINANCIAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 The Council and the Hartlepool Partnership will benefit from significant additional financial resources to 2008. The funding will potentially enable successful elements of the current NRF programme to continue although the mainstreaming of interventions into partners core budgets is increasingly becoming more important and will be critical in 2008.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 The Portfolio Holder is recommended endorse the decision of the Hartlepool Partnership Board by
- noting the findings of the NRF evaluation
 - agreeing to approve in principle to fund the ‘employment sensitive posts’ and other projects outlined in the report, subject to full appraisal and final approval; and
 - agreeing to allocate the Lifelong Learning Partnership £430,000 from the Jobs & Economy allocation to target the skills agenda.

REGENERATION AND LIVEABILITY PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder

20th January 2006



Report of: The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services

Subject: REMIT AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE PROPOSED CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide confirmation of the membership of the proposed conservation area advisory committee and its proposed remit.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

2.1 The report outlines the membership of the conservation area advisory committee and the remit.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

3.1 Conservation policy falls within the Portfolio.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

4.1 Non-key.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

5.1 Portfolio Holder only.

6. DECISION (S) REQUIRED

6.1 That the Portfolio Holder approves the membership and remit outlined in the report and authorises officers to organise an initial meeting of the committee.

Report of: The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services

Subject: REMIT AND MEMBERSHIP OF CONSERVATION
AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide confirmation of the membership of the proposed conservation area advisory committee and its proposed remit.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Portfolio Holder has received two previous reports on the subject of the proposed conservation area advisory committee. The first outlined research carried out into committees elsewhere in the north of England. The second suggested a possible remit for the committee with an emphasis on strategic issues rather than individual planning applications, and outlined organisations which might be considered as potential Committee members.

2.2 Those Councillors who represent wards with conservation areas located in have been consulted regarding the proposed membership and remit of the committee. In addition, consultation with the Headland Residents Association is scheduled via a meeting on 10th January. Subject to the responses from those consultations the purpose of this report is to provide information on the final proposed membership of the committee and remit.

3 MEMBERSHIP OF CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

3.1 Having taken soundings of potential member organisations, it is suggested that the membership of the committee comprises the following representatives, all of whom have expressed willingness to be involved,

Member representation

The Portfolio Holder
Chair of Planning Committee

Professional representation

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)
Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)

Amenity groups

Civic Society
Hartlepool Archaeological Society
Society for Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB)
Victorian Society

Parish Councils

Greatham Parish Council
Headland Parish Council

Local resident / Business representatives

Headland Residents Association
Seaton Carew Renewal Advisory Group (SCRAG)

3.2 It is suggested that should new resident, business or amenity groups be established in the future they can be invited to join the CAAC with the agreement of the members of the committee at the time.

3.3 I shall comment further in the light of the outcome from the consultations referred to at 2.2, at the meeting.

4 REMIT

4.1 It is proposed that strategic issues to be considered by the Committee should include

- Policy
- Conservation Area Appraisals
- Development Briefs
- Awareness raising on Conservation Areas
- Grant Schemes.

5 RECOMMENDATION

5.1 That the Portfolio Holder approves the membership and remit outlined in the report and authorises officers to organise an initial meeting of the committee.

REGENERATION AND LIVEABILITY

Report to Portfolio Holder

20 January 2006



Report of: Head of Environmental Management

Subject: PRIDE IN HARTLEPOOL PROPOSALS

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider recommendations of the Pride in Hartlepool Steering Group in respect of proposals for community projects.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

List of Pride in Hartlepool proposals and recommendations for funding of those proposals.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

Recommendations of spend on Pride in Hartlepool projects to be confirmed by the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Liveability.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non key decision.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Recommendations of the Pride in Hartlepool Steering Group to the Regeneration and Liveability Portfolio Holder.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

To agree the recommendations of the Pride in Hartlepool Steering Group in respect of proposals for community projects.

Report of: Head of Environmental Management

Subject: PRIDE IN HARTLEPOOL PROPOSALS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider recommendations of the Pride in Hartlepool Steering Group in respect of proposals for community projects.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Pride in Hartlepool Steering Group met on 16th December 2005 and recommended the following for approval:

2.2 Fens Primary requested assistance to develop a herb project. The project will include an educational visit to Alwick Gardens, a pamphlet to explain the herb project to parents and the creation of an herb garden that the children will care for with adult volunteers. It is recommended that £3460 be allocated to support the project.

2.3 Rossmere Primary School requested a total of £2500 to develop their school grounds for the benefit of wildlife and as a learning facility for the children. Their proposal includes creation of a wildflower meadow, creation of an herb garden and vegetable plot for use by the children and an access path. The total cost of the project will be £4994.88, the rest of the project will be match funded by the Parents Teachers Association and Friends of Rossmere Trust. It is recommended that the funding requested be approved.

2.3 Seaton Carew Nursery School are continuing to develop their school grounds and this includes the creation of a wildlife pond with viewing platform. The pond will be fenced for safety and will be a facility for the children to learn about minibeasts and a benefit for aquatic wildlife in the area.
It is recommended that £1700 – the total cost of the pond, safety fencing and viewing platform be approved.

2.4 It is recommended that £2500 be approved to support OFCA in the provision of resources for the Volunteer Initiative Project. This project recruits volunteers to undertake garden maintenance for elderly and disadvantaged members of the community town wide. Funding was requested for tools, including power tools and to aid the volunteers with their work.

- 2.5 It is recommended that approval be given for the amount of £1093 to enable St Begas school to create a raised vegetable plot in which the children can grow their own produce. It is hoped that some of the produce might be sold in school as a small enterprise project. The school will seek to recruit volunteers to help maintain the garden and will fund future maintenance through extended schools funding.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The funding for the above projects is available within the Pride in Hartlepool budget.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That the recommendations of the Pride in Hartlepool Steering Group be approved.

REGENERATION AND LIVEABILITY

Report to Portfolio Holder
20 January 2006



Report of: Head of Environmental Management

Subject: ADDITIONAL POWERS FOR COMMUNITY
WARDENS

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek the granting of additional powers to Community Wardens to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for a variety of offences.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

A history of legislation and previous discussions concerning additional powers.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

The Regeneration & Liveability Portfolio Holder has responsibility for Community Wardens.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non-key.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Regeneration & Liveability Portfolio Holder, 20 January 2005.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

To grant additional powers to Community Wardens.

Report of: Head of Environmental Management

Subject: ADDITIONAL POWERS FOR COMMUNITY
WARDENS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Portfolio Holder of the additional powers available to Community Wardens under the Accreditation Scheme.
- 1.2 To seek approval for Community Wardens to use these new powers, as appropriate in the course of their duties.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the Mayor's Portfolio meeting held on 28 August 2003, the Mayor supported Cleveland Police's proposal to establish an Accreditation Scheme for Community Wardens. At this time, the Mayor requested that the issue of conferring enforcement powers on Community Wardens should be referred to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and considered in conjunction with their Anti-Social Behaviour inquiry.
- 2.2 A subsequent meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee agreed to undertake a consultation exercise with the public in relation to the range of powers available to Community Wardens under the Accreditation Scheme.
- 2.3 As part of the consultation process, the issue of Additional Powers was discussed in Neighbourhood Forums and a Viewpoint Survey was carried out in June 2005. Consultation with young people was undertaken through B76.
- 2.4 The findings of the consultation exercise proved useful and, in general, members of the public were in favour of granting Community Wardens all seven Additional Powers and the ability to issue FPN's for most available powers.

3. THE ACCREDITATION SCHEME

- 3.1 There are many aspects to accreditation which contribute significantly towards a safer and cleaner environment for the people of Hartlepool.
- 3.2 Accredited staff can be given a range of limited, but targeted powers to deal with specific nuisances as outlined below:
 - (i) The power to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for dog fouling, littering and riding a bicycle on a footpath;

- (ii) Power to request a name and address for Fixed Penalty Notices and offences that cause injury alarm and distress to another person or damage or loss of another persons property;
- (iii) Power to request the name and address of a person acting in an anti-social manner;
- (iv) Power to confiscate alcohol from young persons;
- (v) Power to require the removal of an untaxed vehicle.

4. HEALTH & SAFETY/TRAINING

- 4.1 The Environmental Services Division recognises and accepts the responsibilities and duties which it has for health and safety. It is policy that all reasonable, practicable steps will be taken to provide safe and healthy working conditions and that the safety, health and welfare of Community Wardens and members of the public is paramount at all times.
- 4.2 In the event of Community Wardens being conferred Additional Powers, it is essential that all risks to health and safety to which Community Wardens and others are exposed as a result of their activities are adequately assessed and that such assessments are adequately reviewed.
- 4.3 Arrangements are made for the effective planning, organisation, control and monitoring of health and safety matters through consultation with the Community Wardens and their appointed Trade Union Representative. This takes place via the Job Function Safety Committee, which provides a forum for consultation on health and safety at work.
- 4.4 Training needs are identified following an individual's appraisal, with each employee being appraised at least once per year. However, training is also fundamental to any new task carried out by an employee.
- 4.5 Additional Powers for Community Wardens will create the need for a comprehensive training programme to ensure professionalism and competency but, above all, the safety of both employee and members of the public.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Accreditation is a welcome new addition to the powers available for the Council as it endeavours to provide a safe and clean environment for the people of Hartlepool.
- 5.2 The findings of the Viewpoint Survey and Neighbourhood Forum consultations clearly show anti-social behaviour to be a major concern amongst many residents, the majority of which are in favour of Community Wardens having Additional Powers.

- 5.3 The existing role of the Community Warden does not entirely reflect the needs of the community in that many residents feel Wardens are powerless to take decisive and radical action against individuals who commit environmental crimes and/or behave in an anti-social manner.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 That the Portfolio Holder notes the benefits of Accreditation in providing a safer and cleaner environment for the people of Hartlepool and gives approval for Additional Powers to Community Wardens.

REGENERATION & LIVEABILITY PORTFOLIO

Report To Portfolio Holder
20th January 2006



Report of: The Head of Regeneration

Subject: SINGLE PROGRAMME APPROVALS

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This is an information report which highlights recent Single Programme funding approvals relating to Brougham Enterprise Centre, new business units at Queens Meadow and the Central Area Attractors project.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report details funding approvals by the Tees Valley Partnership and ONE North East in relation to the three projects identified above. The report also draws attention to the significant achievement of securing Single Programme resources totalling over £3.5m for the financial years 2005/6 to 2007/8.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER

The Portfolio holder has responsibility for overseeing the Hartlepool Single Programme Package

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non key

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

The Portfolio Holder at his meeting on 20th January 2006, for information.

6. DECISION REQUIRED

That the Portfolio Holder notes the Single Programme approvals for the three identified projects.

Report of: The Head of Regeneration

Subject: SINGLE PROGRAMME APPROVALS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Portfolio Holder of recent funding approvals under the Single Programme relating to Brougham Enterprise Centre, new business units at Queens Meadow and the Central Area Attractors project.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Single Programme is one of the Governments main strategic economic development and regeneration programmes. Regional responsibility for the Programme lies with ONE North East but under devolved arrangements most of its programme is managed by the Tees Valley Partnership which is comprised of representatives of the five local authorities and key economic development/support and regeneration agencies such as Business Link, the Learning and Skills Council, Tees Valley Regeneration and the University of Teesside. Local Package Management Groups have been established in the five Tees Valley local authority areas to approve, manage and monitor local projects.
- 2.2 The Programme is operated on the basis of 3 year Business Plans, with funding being approved annually by ONE North East. In recent years Hartlepool has utilised Single Programme resources to support a range of initiatives including improvements at Seaton Carew and the Headland, the Queen's Meadow Incubator Units, the Health Centre of Excellence based at Hartlepool College of Further Education and ICT related projects such as the Community Portal.
- 2.3 Within the current 3 year Business Plan, which commenced in April 2005, the resource allocation towards the Hartlepool Package has been limited (compared to previous years). This is partly in reflection of previous successes in bringing forward and delivering schemes, partly in view of ongoing commitments towards the Queens Meadow Incubator Units and partly because of the prioritisation of a significant proportion of the Tees Valley Programme towards Tees Valley Regeneration projects, including Victoria Harbour. In effect resources for new project activities within the Hartlepool Package are restricted to approximately £375,000 per year. This has been prioritised towards activities under the Coastal Arc banner, specifically the Central Area Attractors scheme which seeks to enhance, develop and integrate

facilities around the Historic Quay, HMS Trincomalee and Wingfield Castle.

3 **PROGRESS**

3.1 The Central Area Attractors project has been worked up in detail and following a rigorous project appraisal process, Single Programme Funding totalling £1,099,130 over 3 years has recently been approved. Work on phase I of this scheme is due to commence in January.

3.2 The Tees Valley Partnership secretariat continually monitors the sub-regional programme to ensure that projects are achieving their spend and output targets. Through this process they have identified a need to introduce a number of additional projects to ensure that the programme overall does not underspend. As part of this exercise, improvements to Brougham Enterprise Centre were submitted for consideration. This proposal was originally part of a combined incubator system which included the new facility at Queens Meadow, the refurbishment and extension of Brougham Enterprise Centre and a joint management network. Budget restrictions last year however, and a requirement from ONE North East that the Brougham element of the proposal be worked up in greater detail meant that this element of the scheme was not included in the programme at that time. Single Programme funding of £650,000 has recently been approved towards the Brougham scheme which together with £620,000 from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund has allowed this project to now proceed.

3.3 As part of the same exercise of bringing forward additional projects, a scheme for the construction of new business and production units at Queens Meadow was proposed by a private development company Rivergreen Development Plc. The scheme involves 80,000 square feet of high quality office and workspace units. These will be constructed in a manner which allows flexibility to adapt individual units to the requirements of occupiers. The units will be located adjacent to the Incubator site and will provide natural 'move on' space from these units. Single Programme funding to the value of £1,840,000 has been approved over three years towards this scheme which will draw in over £4,360,000 of private match funding.

4 **SUMMARY**

4.1 In summary, from an initial situation of having only £375,000 capital funding per year over 3 years allocated to the Hartlepool Package, recent Single Programme approvals have secured over £3.5 million toward 3 major regeneration projects over this period.

5 **RECOMMENDATION**

5.1 It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder notes the report.