

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE AGENDA



Friday 13th November 2009

at 2.00pm

in the Council Chamber,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

MEMBERS: SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE:

Councillors C. Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Barker, Brash, James, London, A Marshall, J. Marshall, McKenna, Preece, Richardson, Rogan, Shaw, Simmons, Wright and Young

Resident Representatives: Iris Ryder and Linda Shields.

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 9th October 2009 *(to follow)*
- 3.2 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 2009 *(to follow)*

4. **RESPONSES FROM THE COUNCIL, THE EXECUTIVE OR COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL TO REPORTS OF THE SCRUTINY COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

No items.

5. **CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS FROM COUNCIL, EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND NON EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

No items.

6. **FORWARD PLAN**

- 6.1 The Forward Plan: November 2009 – February 2010 - *Scrutiny Manager*

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

No items

8. CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL MONITORING/CORPORATE REPORTS

No items.

9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

9.1 Workforce Issues – *Chief Personnel Officer*

Child Poverty and Financial Inclusion

9.2 Child Poverty - Setting the Scene Report - *Director of Child and Adult Services & Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*

9.3 Evidence from the Mayor and Portfolio Holders (*subject to availability*):-

- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer; and*
- (b) Verbal evidence from the Mayor and Portfolio Holders (*subject to availability*)

9.4 Financial Inclusion - Feedback From “Helping Communities Deal with Debt: Understanding Money and Tackling Credit Problems” Briefing:-

- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Manager; and*
- (b) Presentation – *Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee*

Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009

9.5 Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 – Implementation of the Police and Justice Act 2006 (Sections 19 and 20):-

- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Manager; and*
- (b) Presentation – *Scrutiny Manager*

10. CALL-IN REQUESTS

11. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Date of Next Meeting: Friday 27th November 2009 commencing at 2.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

9 October 2009

The meeting commenced at 12.30pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

Present:

Councillor: Marjorie James (In the Chair)

Councillors: Christopher Akers-Belcher, Jonathan Brash, Frances London, Ann Marshall, John Marshall, Arthur Preece, Carl Richardson, Jane Shaw, Edna Wright and David Young.

Resident Representatives:

Evelyn Leck, Linda Shields and Iris Ryder.

Also Present:

Councillors: Kevin Cranney, Sheila Griffin, Alison Lilley, Geoff Lilley and Hilary Thompson.

Resident Representatives:

John Cambridge, Bob Farrow, Ted Jackson, Brenda Loynes, Julie Rudge, Bob Steel, Joan Steel and Michael Ward.

Officers:

Denise Ogden, Head of Neighbourhood Management
David Frame, Neighbourhood Manager (South)
Karen Olive, Neighbourhood Manager (North)
Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager (Central)
Joan Wilkins, Scrutiny Manager
James Walsh, Scrutiny Support Officer
Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

66. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher, Reuben Atkinson, Caroline Barker, Steve Gibbon, Michelle Plant and Lilian Sutheran and Resident Representatives Liz Carroll, Jean Kennedy and Rose Kennedy.

67. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

68. Minutes of the meetings held on 18 September 2009

Confirmed.

69. Responses from the Council, the Executive or Committees of the Council to Reports of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

None.

70. Consideration of request for scrutiny reviews from Council, Executive Members and Non Executive Members – Dust on the Headland – Request for Scrutiny Investigation *(Scrutiny Manager)*

A report was submitted which informed Members of a request by the Chair of Health Scrutiny Forum to explore residents concerns regarding any possible health implications of dust deposits on the Headland, and surrounding areas, through the Overview and Scrutiny process.

Prior to the ensuing discussions one of the St Hilda Ward Councillors in attendance presented to the Committee his thoughts on the issue of dust on the Headland. These included the following three issues, dust nuisance, noise nuisance and health implications from those two and Members were informed that this had been on-going for at least 20 years and a number of multi-agency meetings had been held without any resolution to the problem. It had been reported that houses in this vicinity suffered from paintwork and windows being covered in dust often containing metal filings.

Reference was made to a public meeting held earlier this week to which Dr Peter Kelly had been invited to give a presentation in which he highlighted a number of areas within the town affected by the issue of dust.

The Chair indicated that the Health Scrutiny Forum would examine the evidence and had the facility to refer issues back to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to enable specific issues to be examined in more detail should that be deemed necessary.

A discussion ensued which included the following issues:

- (i) A Member commented that a resident had referred to a significant amount of scrap metal in the dock area which it was reported was being removed only to be put back after the Tall Ships Race next year. It was noted that should evidence be provided to confirm this, the appropriate action would be taken.
- (ii) A resident representative commented that similar issues were affecting the Longhill area of the town. It was noted that this area was already

subject to monitoring by Council officers and the issue to be examined by the Health Scrutiny Forum specifically referred to the red dust affecting the coastal areas of the town.

Members were reminded that all scrutiny meetings were held in public which enables any interested parties to attend.

Decision

That the Health Scrutiny Forum examine the issue of possible health implications of dust deposits on the Headland at a specially convened meeting, the date and time to be confirmed, in a location on the Headland.

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

None.

72. Consideration of financial monitoring/corporate reports

None.

73. 2008/09 Neighbourhood Consultative Forum Review *(Scrutiny Manager/Head of Neighbourhood Management)*

As Members were aware a review of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums was ongoing and as part of this review, it had been agreed with the Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee that it would be beneficial for Scrutiny to be involved. After considering this on 31 July 2009, it was agreed that all Members and resident representatives be invited to this meeting to participate in discussions on this issue.

The Head of Neighbourhood Management and Neighbourhood Manager for the north area gave a detailed and comprehensive presentation which included the background to the creation of the Neighbourhood Forums which aimed to pass power to communities and give real control and influence to more people. The review has been undertaken using the following methodology:

- Information from Viewpoint Survey
- Questionnaire to Forum Attendees
- 1 to 1 interviews with Council Officers and Service Providers
- Focus Groups involving Ward Members and Resident Representatives

The key findings from the review were detailed in the presentation and the recommendations were as follows:

1. Establish targets for attendance
2. Develop new strategies to increase attendance
3. Address issue of unrepresentative demographic profile of attendees
4. Monitor and review attendance to track number and demographic profile
5. Develop more effective advertising and consider re-branding / marketing exercise
6. Introduce measures to ensure meetings finish at pre-agreed time where practicable
7. Pre-meeting to include resident representation
8. Allow for 1 presentation per meeting with 10 mins presentation time plus time for questions
9. Those delivering presentations must have specific training in presentation skills
10. Implement measures around behaviour and expectations – possibly a code of conduct.
11. Ensure that everyone who wishes to do so is given the opportunity to make a contribution.

A discussion on each recommendation ensued which included the following issues:

- (i) Members were supportive of the need to ensure that the demographic range of people attending Neighbourhood Consultative Forums was widened and there was some concern that 39% of people attending a Forum did not feel that their views were listened to. In addition, it was noted that Members may wish to give consideration to the alternative way available to raise issues that had been drawn to their attention by residents, e.g. Hartlepool Connect rather than waiting for Forum meetings to raise them.
- (ii) A Member referred to the fact that 60% of issues appear to come back to the Forums over and over again and it was questioned whether this was due to the fact that issues were not being dealt with appropriately in the first place which in turn did not encourage people to attend. The production of a newsletter by each neighbourhood area was suggested as a means of encouraging contact and informing residents what had been achieved by the Forums and it was noted that a number of local community groups may be willing to participate in the production of the newsletters.
- (iii) It was acknowledged that it was a difficult balancing act to increase attendance and yet ensure that Forums did not over run excessively.
- (iv) In relation to the suggestion rebranding the Forums, a number of ideas for re-naming the Forums were put forward including removing the word consultative and changing to either Neighbourhood Forums or Community Forums.
- (v) A Member referred to the proposal to use Radio Hartlepool and it was suggested that other local radios should also be considered when looking at advertising the Forums.
- (vi) The importance of good chairing skills was acknowledged and it was commented that everyone in attendance at all meetings should be

considerate of the sometimes difficult task a Chair had to undertake. It was suggested that training on chairing meetings be held for the Vice Chairs of Forums supported by the Chairs collectively. In addition, it was confirmed that Vice Chairs should be invited to the Forum pre-agenda meetings as preparation in case they were asked to chair the Forum meeting. A further suggestion was made for one pre-agenda meeting for all area Forums to be held for the Chairs and Vice Chairs collectively as opposed to three separate pre-agendas as the Forums tended to have very similar agendas.

- (vii) In relation to presentations at Forums, it was recognised that the Chair and officers discuss presentations put forward for a Forum at the pre-agenda meeting enabling a decision to be taken on which presentations should be included and the time allowed for such presentations. In addition, it was suggested that an annual timetable of presentations be made to the Forum to alleviate too many presentations being done at one meeting. However, it was acknowledged that there may be occasional exceptions to this where officers were given very little notice in order to consult with the Forums, for example tight deadlines to secure additional funding.
- (viii) Members noted that the Council already had a Code of Conduct for Members and resident representatives which should be adhered to at all times and therefore an additional Code of Conduct was not required.
- (ix) Members were generally supportive of ward issues and public question time remaining on future Forum agendas as this was considered a particular important part of the meeting.
- (x) A resident representative suggested that further consideration be given to changing the day and timing of meetings to encourage young people to attend and he referred to the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum who had amended the start time of all its meetings to commence at 4.30pm since young people had been co-opted onto the Scrutiny Forum. However, it was acknowledged that encouraging young people to attend official meetings may involve more than a change of day and time and it was suggested that a mechanism for linking into the youth forum be explored. A number of Members indicated at this point in the meeting that they were not aware of the youth forums in their area and it was suggested that information on the youth forums be forwarded to all Members to ensure they were fully aware of what was happening in their area and how to participate. In addition, Members were asked to note that Chairs of scrutiny forums had been invited to attend school council meetings to better inform the young people about scrutiny and it was suggested that neighbourhood forum chairs may wish consider doing this also.
- (xi) A Member suggested that changing the format of meetings may encourage public participation. For example using break out groups, although it was acknowledged that the Forum meetings were part of the Council's democratic process and needed to retain some formality due to the fact that they were officially constituted meetings of the Council.
- (xii) A Member commented on the question sheets that members of the

public could complete to enable their question to be raised at a Forum meeting. As a continuation of this good practice, it was suggested that comments cards or question sheets be placed in community buildings and libraries for members of the public to complete and post into a comments/questions box which would be emptied on a regular basis.

- (xiii) In relation to changing the venues of the Forum, it was noted that some areas of the town had limited appropriate Council facilities and this restricted the choice of venue due to the cost implications of hiring private facilities.
- (xiv) A Member noted that when public meetings were held to examine specific issues they were highly attended and it was suggested that the Forums could concentrate on specific issues at individual meetings with a view to encouraging attendance.
- (xv) It was suggested by a Member that the use of banners on public buildings, in particular the Civic Centre and Middleton Grange Offices due to their location on a main bus route and at the entrance to the shopping centre, could be used to publicise the Forums.
- (xvi) A discussion ensued on the working relationship between Members and resident representatives and it was noted that this varied across the town. It was therefore suggested that a mechanism be put in place to establish an effective two-way communication process between Members and resident representatives to improve the level of working relationship.

Councillor Ann Marshall declared a personal interest at this point of the meeting.

- (xvii) It was noted that the community network had developed skills plans which covered the roles and responsibilities of resident representatives and was provided to resident representatives and community groups. It was therefore suggested that the Area Managers liaise with the community network in relation to charring skills training.

Decision

- (i) Members noted the presentation.
- (ii) That Members' and resident representatives' views and comments above be incorporated into the Neighbourhood Consultative Forum Review 2008/09.

74. Call-In Requests

None.

The meeting concluded at 3.10 pm.

CHAIR

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

16 October 2009

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Marjorie James (In the Chair)

Councillors: Christopher Akers-Belcher, Stephen Akers-Belcher, Jonathan Brash, Ann Marshall, Arthur Preece, Carl Richardson, Trevor Rogan, Jane Shaw, Chris Simmons and Edna Wright.

Resident Representatives:

Evelyn Leck and Iris Ryder

Officers:

Mike Ward, Chief Financial Officer
Chris Little, Assistant Chief Financial Officer
John Mennear, Assistant Director, Adult and Community Services
Keith Smith, Head of Finance and Business Development
Colin Bolton, Building Consultancy Manager
Joan Wilkins, Scrutiny Manager
Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

75. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Caroline Barker, Frances London and Chris McKenna.

76. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

77. Minutes

None.

78. Responses from the Council, the Executive or Committees of the Council to Reports of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

None.

79. Consideration of request for scrutiny reviews from Council, Executive Members and Non Executive Members

None.

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

None.

81. Consideration of financial monitoring/corporate reports

None.

82. Scrutiny Involvement in the Budget Setting Process for 2010/11 – Proposed Timetable *(Scrutiny Manager)*

The Scrutiny Manager reported on the proposed timetable for the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and the four standing Scrutiny Forums' involvement (with the exception to the Health Scrutiny Forum) in the budget setting process for 2010/11. As with usual practice, additional meetings of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and the four standing Scrutiny Forums' would need to be scheduled where necessary. Full details of the proposed dates were circulated at the meeting.

Recommendation

That the proposed timetable for the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and the four standing Scrutiny Forums' involvement in the budget setting process for 2010/11 be approved.

83. Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2010/2011 to 2013/2014 – Initial Consultation Proposals *(Chief Financial Officer)*

The Chief Financial Officer gave a presentation which provided Members with the following budget proposals as referred by Cabinet at its meeting on 21 September 2009:

- The development of the 2009/10 Outturn Strategy
- Capital Programme 2010/2011 to 2013/2014
- General Fund and Council Tax 2010/2011 to 2013/2014

In conclusion, the Chief Financial Officer confirmed that there were no

significant issues or risks in the current year. However, it was noted that 2010/11 would be a challenging year but assuming the grant allocation was approved and the first phase of business transformation efficiencies and headroom was not exceeded, this would not be too much of concern. Additionally there was concern in relation to 2012/13 as it was expected that the efficiency programme of the Council would be broadly exhausted by this time with the implementation of service delivery options and management structure reviews. In view of this, Cabinet and Council would need to look at reprioritising services in 2010/11 in order to prepare for 2012/13.

It was noted by Members that Council policies emphasised the use of Hartlepool Council public sector pound to be retained in Hartlepool at every possible opportunity. It was commented that Scrutiny Members would be very disappointed should those policies not be adhered to across the Council and that everyone should be doing everything in their power to ensure they were. The Chair indicated that every opportunity would be taken to ensure that Council policies were enforced and enacted upon. Scrutiny Members welcomed the opportunity to meet with Directors and be involved throughout the budget consultation process.

Recommendation

That the relevant sections of the budget be referred to the four standing forums for further consideration and comment to be fed back to this Committee on 27 November 2009 to allow a response to be made to Cabinet on 14 December 2009.

84. Audit Commission Report – Annual Audit and Inspection Letter *(Chief Financial Officer)*

The Chief Financial Officer presented a report which had the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter attached at Appendix 1. The letter provided an overall summary of their assessment of the Council. It drew on the findings and conclusions from the audit of the Council and from the Corporate Assessment and inspections that had been undertaken in the last year and formed a wider analysis of the Council's performance and its improvement over the last year, as measured through the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) framework.

Recommendation

The report of the Audit Commission was noted.

85. Civic Suite Microphone System *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

In response to Members' concerns about the effectiveness of the microphone system within the Civic Suite, the Building Consultancy Manager was in attendance to present an action plan to resolve the ongoing

problems. There had been two main areas identified as contributory factors to the problems with the operation of the microphone system. They were officer training and interference from the wireless system operating within the Civic Centre. Members were informed that additional training had been scheduled for the officers involved with the set up of the microphone system to rectify the first issue. In addition to this, the Building Consultancy Manager was currently working with Northgate and the suppliers of the microphone system to rectify the possible interference from the wireless system. It was hoped that this may be achieved by utilising a dedicated channel on the wireless system for the microphone system in isolation. Arrangements were being made for a representative from the company who installed the system to be present at a future meeting to enable the system to be observed in operation.

A discussion ensued which included the following issues.

- (i) A number of Members commented that the current operation of the system was not acceptable and they had difficulty understanding why this had been allowed to continue for so long as it had not appeared to work correctly since its installation.
- (ii) A number of examples were quoted when the system had not operated properly in Council meetings, one of particular embarrassment when the Chairman was paying his and the Council's respects at a full Council meeting to a former Councillor and Mayor of Hartlepool who had recently passed away.
- (iii) Another issue was the interruption to Council business during public meetings and Members often felt that the system was their own personal 'heckler'.
- (iv) In addition to the microphone system, Members raised a number of concerns at the location of the presentation screens within the Council Chamber. It was suggested that repositioning them behind the dias would be a better place and would enable everyone to see them clearly.
- (v) A Member commented that on a recent visit to Durham City Hall, the same system was in use and the same problems occurred there with the microphones switching off during speeches.
- (vi) The issue of members of the public using the system was also discussed, as not very many members of the public feel comfortable speaking at official public Council meetings and were very conscious of using the microphone system. There also did not appear to be the facility to operate a roving microphone for this purpose.
- (vii) In relation to the possibility of interference with the wireless system, a Member commented that the particular incident when the Chairman's microphone did not work was on an evening, which presumably was a time when the use of the wireless system within the Civic Centre was at its lowest.
- (viii) A resident representative questioned whether the Civic Centre was surveyed prior to the installation of the system to ascertain if the channels available through the wireless system were adequate to enable the system to operate effectively.

- (ix) A Member questioned what contingency arrangements were in place within the contract for the system which Members felt was not fit for purpose.
- (x) Members were concerned that a significant amount of money had been spent refurbishing the Civic Centre and purchasing the microphone system that did not appear to work correctly.
- (xi) An additional problem was the position of the podium used for presentations. There was no facility for a microphone on the podium with officers either having to stand sideways to the people they were presenting to, to use a microphone placed on the dias or not to use a microphone at all.
- (xii) A Member commented on the layout of the tables within the Council Chamber and suggested that this layout be amended to enable all Councillors and members of the public to face the front of the Chamber.

In relation to the possible testing of the system with representatives from the installation company and the Council's IT providers Northgate, it was proposed that the next meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee be used for this purpose. In addition to this, it was suggested that as one of the problems appeared to be an issue with the cross over of the wireless channels, the microphone system be allocated a dedicated wireless channel prior to this meeting to either eliminate or prove this as a contributory factor to the problems faced.

Decision

- (i) That the microphone system be transferred to operate on a dedicated wireless channel to ascertain if this was a contributory factor to the problems faced.
- (ii) That representatives from the installers of the system, Northgate and the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department be invited to the meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 13 November 2009 to observe the system in operation.
- (iii) That the possibility of repositioning the presentation screens in the Council Chamber to behind the dias be explored.

86. H20 Budget and Mill House Leisure Centre Improvements *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

The Assistant Director, Child and Adult Services was in attendance to provide a response to questions asked by Members regarding the impact of the current Mill House Leisure Centre improvements on the capital budget. The report provided the background to the identification of a £3,000,000 budget towards the provision of a new replacement leisure facility for Hartlepool which was identified as the H20 Centre.

However, during the 2009/10 budget round, the Council was advised that the development of the H20 Centre was not likely to occur in the medium term.

Therefore the Council approved the reallocation of the existing H20 budget provision to support investment in the replacement plans for the Mill House Leisure Centre.

A discussed ensued in which the following issues were raised.

- (i) The Chair of the Adult and Community Services Forum referred to an investigation undertaken by the Forum last year into the leisure facilities provided in the town and he was delighted that funding had been secured to provide a very much needed improvement to the facilities at the Mill House Leisure Centre.
- (ii) A Member commented that the proposed H20 Centre development had been discussed for a number of years and in view of this, members of the public had little confidence that this facility would ever be built. The investment in the improvement to the facilities provided at the Mill House Leisure Centre was welcomed.
- (iii) A Member questioned the level of take up of use of leisure facilities within the town by young people and suggested that should particular times be identified as having a low take up, for example Friday and Saturday nights, local groups and organisations working with young people should be given the opportunity and encouraged to use the facilities at these times.
- (iv) A Member commented on the temperature of the pool at the Mill House Leisure Centre indicating that it was too cold at times? The Assistant Director informed Members that the temperature of the pool was personal to each individual and that some members of the public had commented that it was too warm.
- (v) As part of the scrutiny investigation into leisure facilities Members had visited a superb facility in Durham which was funded by mixture of public and private funding. It was noted that partnership working with other organisations to look at creative ways of bringing together funding packages should be examined as a way forward for the improvement and long term future of this leisure facility. The Assistant Director commented that work was currently underway to identify assistance to secure additional investment for a new leisure facility.
- (vi) It was commented by a Member that building a new leisure facility in a central location of the town should be examined as this may be more cost effective than continuously improving and refurbishing the Mill House Leisure Centre. The Assistant Director confirmed that refurbishment works had commenced on the Centre this month but the opportunity to build a new facility would give scope to include the facilities required and would be at an approximate cost of £15m.
- (vii) It was noted by Members that the other swimming and leisure facilities within the town on school/ex-school sites should be looked at to ensure that they were being used to their full capacity also, including encouraging the use by youth groups and organisations on Friday and Saturday nights.

Decision

The report was noted.

87. Any Other Business – Requests for Funding from the Dedicated Overview and Scrutiny Budget

Members were informed of the following two requests for funding from the Dedicated Overview and Scrutiny Budget.

Request from Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum

As part of the Climate Change and Carbon Management investigation currently being undertaken and in conjunction with 11 Million Take Over Day a climate change activity session had been organised involving Year 5 pupils. It was proposed that a buffet lunch be provided prior to the start of the activity session with the suggestion that the cost of the buffet be divided between Scrutiny, the Children and Families section and the Environmental Standards Section. Approval was therefore sought for a third of the buffet cost, £58.50 to be funded from the Dedicated Overview and Scrutiny Budget.

Request from the Health Scrutiny Forum

As Members were aware, a Health Scrutiny Forum had been arranged for 27 October 2009 to explore residents' concerns regarding any possible health implications of dust deposits on the Headland and surrounding areas. The meeting will commence at 6.30pm in the Main Hall, Borough Hall, Headland. In order to promote the event appropriately, a request was made for funding to undertake a leafleting exercise on the Headland, Central Estate and Marina. Approval was therefore sought to fund this exercise at a total cost of £324 from the Dedicated Overview and Scrutiny Budget.

Decision

The following requests for funding from the Dedicated Overview and Scrutiny budget be agreed:

- (i) Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum - £58.50
- (ii) Health Scrutiny Forum - £324.00

88. Any Other Business – Resignation – Member Attendances Working Group

As Members were aware, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee had created a Member Attendances Working Group to explore and agree methods for the collation and reporting of Member attendances to enable the fullest

disclosure possible and publication alongside expenses claimed from September 2010. Membership of this Working Group was confirmed at the meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 17 July 2009.

Notification had recently been received that Councillor John Marshall, independent member, did not wish to serve on the Working Group and the Committee's views were sought on the way forward in terms of this vacancy.

Members were informed that there was no legal/constitutional requirement for a Working Group to be politically balanced and there was no minimum number of Members required to form a Working Group. In view of this and the fact that there were no other independent Members on Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, Members agreed that the membership of this Working Group be reduced by one.

Decision

That the Member Attendances Working Group membership be reduced to seven and include the following Members:

Councillors James (Chair), C Akers-Belcher, Brash, Preece, Simmons, Wright and Young.

89. Call-In Requests

None.

The meeting concluded at 3.50 pm.

CHAIR

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

13 November 2009



Report of: Scrutiny Manager

Subject: THE FORWARD PLAN - NOVEMBER 2009 TO
FEBRUARY 2009

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the opportunity for the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee (SCC) to consider whether any item within the attached Executive's Forward Plan should be considered by this Committee or referred to a particular Scrutiny Forum.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 As you are aware, the SCC has delegated powers to manage the work of Scrutiny, as it thinks fit, and if appropriate can exercise or delegate to individual Scrutiny Forums.
- 2.2 One of the main duties of the SCC is to hold the Executive to account by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive and to decide whether value can be added to the decision by the Scrutiny process in advance of the decision being made.
- 2.3 This would not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.4 As such, the most recent copy of the Executive's Forward Plan is attached as **Appendix 1** for the SCC's information.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considers the content of the Executive's Forward Plan.

Contact Officer:- Joan Wilkins – Scrutiny Manager
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 28 4142
Email: joan.wilkins@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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



FORWARD PLAN

NOVEMBER 2009 – FEBRUARY 2010

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1. **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The law requires the executive of the local authority to publish in advance, a programme of its work in the coming four months including information about key decisions that it expects to make. It is updated monthly.
- 1.2 The executive means the Mayor and those Councillors the Mayor has appointed to the Cabinet.
- 1.3 Key decisions are those which significantly modify the agreed annual budget of the Council or its main framework of policies, those which initiate new spending proposals in excess of £100,000 and those which can be judged to have a significant impact on communities within the town. A full definition is contained in Article 13 of the Council's Constitution.
- 1.4 Key decisions may be made by the Mayor, the Cabinet as a whole, individual Cabinet members or nominated officers. The approach to decision making is set out in the scheme of delegation which is agreed by the Mayor and set out in full in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

2. **FORMAT OF THE FORWARD PLAN**

- 2.1 The plan is arranged in sections according to the Department of the Council which has the responsibility for advising the executive on the relevant topic:

Part 1	Chief Executive's Department	CE
Part 2	Adult & Community Services Department	ACS
Part 3	Children's Services Department	CS
Part 4	Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department	RP/NS

- 2.2 Each section includes information on the development of the main policy framework and the budget of the Council where any of this work is expected to be undertaken during the period in question.
- 2.3 It sets out in as much detail as is known at the time of its preparation, the programme of key decisions. This includes information about the nature of the decision, who will make the decisions, who will be consulted and by what means and the way in which any interested party can make representations to the decision-maker.

3. **DECISIONS MADE IN PRIVATE**

- 3.1 Most key decisions will be made in public at a specified date and time.
- 3.2 A small number of key decisions, for reasons of commercial or personal confidentiality, will be made in private and the public will be excluded from any sessions while such decisions are made. Notice will still be given about the intention to make such decisions, but wherever possible the Forward Plan will show that the decision will be made in private session.

- 3.3 Some sessions will include decisions made in public and decisions made in private. In such cases the public decisions will be made at the beginning of the meeting to minimise inconvenience to members of the public and the press.

4. **URGENT DECISIONS**

- 4.1 Although every effort will be made to include all key decisions in the Forward Programme, it is inevitable for a range of reasons that some decisions will need to be taken at short notice so as to prevent their inclusion in the Forward Plan. In such cases a minimum of 5 days public notice will be given before the decision is taken.

- 4.2 In rare cases it may be necessary to take a key decision without being able to give 5 days notice. The Executive is only able to do this with the agreement of the Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee or the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the local authority. (Scrutiny committees have the role of overseeing the work of the Executive).

5. **PUBLICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

- 5.1 All decisions which have been notified in the Forward Plan and any other key decisions made by the Executive, will be recorded and published as soon as reasonably practicable after the decision is taken.

- 5.2 The Council's constitution provides that key decisions will not be implemented until a period of four days has elapsed after the decision has been published. This allows for the exceptional cases when a scrutiny committee may 'call in' a decision of the Executive to consider whether it should be reviewed before it is implemented. 'Call in' may arise exceptionally when a Scrutiny Committee believes that the Executive has failed to make a decision in accordance with the principles set out in the Council's constitution (Article 13); or that the decision falls outside the Council's Policy Framework; or is not wholly in accordance within the Council's budget.

6. **DETAILS OF DECISION MAKERS**

- 6.1 Names and titles of those people who make key decisions either individually or collectively will be set out in Appendix 1 once they are determined.

7. **TIMETABLE OF KEY DECISIONS**

- 7.1 The timetable as expected at the time of preparation of the forward plan is set out in Appendix 2. Confirmation of the timing in respect of individual decisions can be obtained from the relevant contact officer closer to the time of the relevant meeting. Agenda papers are available for inspection at the Civic Centre five days before the relevant meeting.

PART ONE – CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S DEPARTMENT

A. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

No items.

B. SCHEDULE OF KEY DECISIONS

DECISION REFERENCE: CE 33/09 – Strategic Land Acquisition

Nature of the decision

A report will be presented back on negotiations with landholders further to the Council Meeting held on 30 April 2009.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet and Council.

Ward(s) affected

All wards will be affected.

Timing of the decision

The decision will be made during November but will be dependent upon external organisations.

Who will be consulted and how?

Cabinet and Council will be consulted.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

To be determined following negotiations with external organisations

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Paul Walker, Chief Executive, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Telephone 01429 523001, e-mail: paul.walker@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be sought by contacting Paul Walker as above

PART TWO – ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

A. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

No items.

B SCHEDULE OF KEY DECISIONS

No items.

PART THREE – CHILDREN’S SERVICES DEPARTMENT

A. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

No items.

B. SCHEDULE OF KEY DECISIONS

DECISION REFERENCE: ED61/09 BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE (BSF) – INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT) MANAGED SERVICE - APPOINTMENT OF PREFERRED BIDDER

Nature of the decision

To appoint a preferred bidder to deliver a managed ICT service to all secondary schools in Hartlepool, as part of the BSF programme.

Who will make the decision?

Cabinet

Timing of the decision

December 2009

Ward(s) affected

All

Who will be consulted and how?

The Schools Transformation Project Board will be consulted before Cabinet meets to make the decision.

Information to be considered by the decision-makers

Cabinet will be informed of the outcomes of dialogue with two bidders, European Electronique and Northgate Education. Dialogue with these two bidders is taking place between August 2009 and October 2009. The two bidders will be invited to make formal submissions which will be evaluated by a team consisting of Local Authority officers, school representatives and specialist external advisers (legal, financial, ICT). The outcomes of evaluation will be reported to Project Board and brought to Cabinet for decision. The intention will be to appoint a preferred bidder and reserve.

How to make representations

Representations should be made to Anne Smith, Head of Information, Planning and Support Services, Level 4, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Telephone 01429 523724, e-mail anne.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk.

Further information

Further information on this matter can be sought from Anne Smith

PART FOUR - REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

A. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

1. THE PLANS AND STRATEGIES WHICH TOGETHER COMPRISE THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

With the enactment of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, a new development plan system has come into force. There are still two tiers of development plan, but the Regional Spatial Strategy replaces the structure plan and development plan documents contained within a Local Development Framework will replace the local plan.

The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the North East sets out a long-term strategy for the spatial development of the North East Region of England. Local Transport Plans (LTPs) should also reflect the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS), which is integrated within the RSS to ensure the integration of land use and transport planning.

Preparation of the RSS has taken place over a number of years in accordance with the following stages which have previously been reported to Cabinet/Council and to the Hartlepool Partnership appropriately.

- A first draft of the RSS produced by the North East Assembly in 2004 followed by a Public Examination by a Panel appointed by the Secretary of State to test the soundness of the draft RSS.
- Consideration by The Secretary of State of the Panel recommendations and the representations made on the draft revision RSS, and the release of proposed changes to the RSS published for public consultation on two separate occasions.

Publication of the adopted RSS which is entitled "The North East of England Plan – Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021". This now replaces all of the policies in the Tees Valley Structure Plan (2004). Copies of the RSS are available to view or download from the websites of Government Office for the North East <http://www.go-ne.gov.uk> and the North East Assembly <http://www.northeastassembly.gov.uk>.

There is a proposal within the Government's Sub-National Review of Economic Development to eventually combine the RSS with the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) into a single, integrated regional strategy (IRS) for the North East. This will set the strategic direction for sustainable economic growth within the North East Region by aligning economic and spatial planning considerations. The Association of North East Councils (ANEC) – working on behalf of Local Authorities – and One North East (ONE) are leading the development of the Regional Strategy. Informal development work on the Integrated Regional Strategy is progressing. Initial work is

focussing on building the evidence base for early drafts of the IRS and baseline modelling work. Overall timescale for production of the IRS has yet to be announced but it is understood the Issues and Options stage is planned for completion in April 2010. The Regional Strategy in its entirety however is unlikely to be adopted as a statutory policy document until 2011/12.

When local planning authorities prepare the other components of the Development Plan, Local Development Frameworks (LDFs), these should be in general conformity with the RSS. In Hartlepool's case the Hartlepool Local Plan review was being completed at the time of the introduction of the new LDF process, the new plan being adopted by Council on 13th April 2006. The Hartlepool Local Plan review has now been completed. However, the new local plan can be saved for a period of at least three years after adoption. Discussions took place with Government Office regarding policies to be saved and (reports were made to Cabinet 13th October and Council 30th October 2008). The Council has approved the schedule of Local Plan Policies which the Secretary of State is requested to "save" beyond April 2009. The Secretary of State on 18th December 2008 agreed the schedule of policies to be saved beyond 13th April 2009.

The Hartlepool Local Development Framework will ultimately comprise a 'portfolio' of local development documents which will provide the framework for delivering the spatial planning strategy for the borough. Local development documents will comprise:

- a) Development plan documents – (DPDs) – these are part of the development plan and must include
 - o A core strategy setting out the long term spatial vision for the area and the strategic policies and proposals to deliver the vision
 - o DPDs on Site specific allocations and policies
 - o Generic development control policies relating to the vision and strategy set out in the core strategy, and
 - o Proposals Map
- b) Supplementary planning documents

In addition, the Local Development Framework will include Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents. Cabinet on 12th April 2006 endorsed the principle of the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Committee taking responsibility for the initial preparation of Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents on behalf of the Borough Council and the other four Tees Valley authorities. In April 2007 Cabinet was asked to endorse 'The Key Issues and Alternative Options Report' and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for public consultation between 21st May and 30th June 2007. Work has now been completed on developing preferred options and these were put to Cabinet in January 2008 for public consultation between February and April 2008. Cabinet and full Council agreed the formal publication document in July 2009. The documents were published in August 2009 and are being made available for public consultation between 27th August 2009 and 9th October 2009. The DPDs will be "submitted" to the Secretary of State

in November 2009. It is anticipated that the documents will be subject to Public Examination in January 2010.

Work has started on three supplementary planning documents (SPD's) as follows:

- i) Transport Assessments and Travel Plans SPD – This policy will set out guidance and standards on the use of Travel Plans and Transport assessment planning agreements, including the circumstances when an agreement will be sought and its basis. Cabinet approved the draft for consultation purposes in August 2007. The consultation period was for 6 weeks between 31st August and 12th October. A report was presented to Cabinet in January 2008 on the outcome of this consultation and amendments suggested as appropriate. Discussions have been held with Natural England regarding a Habitats Regulations Assessment. Cabinet on the 20th April, 2009 recommended the Council adopt the SPD. A report will be made to Council in late 2009.
- ii) Planning Obligations SPD – This document will set out guidance and standards on the use of commuted sums negotiated from developers through planning agreements. A draft of this SPD was presented to Cabinet for approval for public consultation purposes in Summer 2009.
- iii) Victoria Harbour SPD – Setting out the planning framework for the continued development of plans and the eventual assessment of planning applications for this major mixed use regeneration scheme within Hartlepool and one of Tees Valley Regeneration's (TVR) 5 key strategic sites in the Tees Valley. It will give guidance on phasing, layout, design requirements and identify issues on affordable housing. Discussions are taking place with the development partners, depending on the outcome of these discussions a draft of this SPD will be presented to Cabinet for approval in Autumn 2009.

Initial preparatory work has also started on the Core Strategy DPD, and various studies including the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, on Employment Land Review and the Open Space and Sports Facilities Audit which will provide the evidence base for developing the issues and options for the Core Strategy are currently being undertaken. Regular reports will be made to Cabinet on progress on the Core Strategy. An Issues and Options Discussions paper was published for public consultation purposes at the end of October 2007. Preferred Options may be presented to Cabinet in January 2010 for approval for formal consultation.

In addition, work has started on the preparation of a DPD on Affordable Housing. Cabinet approved an Issues & Options Paper for public consultation purposes in March 2008. The issues and options paper was subject to consultation till June 2008. Following this consultation, the Preferred Options report was presented to Cabinet in September 2008 and the document has been subject to public consultation ending on 27th October 2008.

An Economic Viability Assessment has been required as an additional piece of evidence base. On the advice of Government Office for the North East a revised Preferred Options Report has been prepared.

A report on the preferred option will be made to Cabinet on 19th October 2009 prior to a further stage in consultation on the DPD in October 2009.

The other documents within the local development framework which must be prepared but which do not form part of the development plan are:

- a) Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) setting out how and when the Council will consult on planning policies and planning applications;
- b) Local Development Scheme (LDS) setting out a rolling programme for the preparation of local development documents, and
- c) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) assessing the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which current planning policies are being implemented.

The Statement of Community Involvement was adopted by the Council on 26th October 2006. A review is currently being undertaken during 2009 with public consultation being held April – June 2009. A report was made to Cabinet on 7th September 2009.

The first Local Development Scheme (LDS) as approved by Cabinet came into effect on 15th April 2005. The Scheme has been updated annually and the most recent scheme came into effect in June 2008 and included proposed timetables for the preparation of the Affordable Housing DPD and the SPD for Victoria Harbour.

The Local Development Scheme will continue to be updated as necessary to take into account completion of documents, the need to revise timetables and the need to include new documents. An update was agreed by Cabinet in February 2008 but, upon the advice of Government Office, this now needs further revision to take account of new Town and County Planning Regulations which came into effect in September 2008. The requirement to revise the Local Development Scheme was reported to Cabinet in July 2008. Cabinet and Council in July 2009 agreed the Revised Local Development Scheme 2009. After minor editing to incorporate comments from the Government office for the North East, this was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in August 2009.

Four Annual Monitoring Reports have been produced to date for the periods 2004/5 to 2007/08. The fifth AMR covering 2008/09 will be presented to Cabinet in Autumn 2009 and subsequently submitted to Government Office for the North East.

Further Information:

Richard Waldmeyer
Team Leader Policy Planning & Information
Regeneration and Planning Services Department

Bryan Hanson House
Hanson Square
Hartlepool
TS24 7BT

Tel. 01429 523280
e-mail Richard.waldmeyer@hartlepool.gov.uk

2. THE ANNUAL YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN

The Youth Offending Service is usually required to submit an annual Youth Justice Plan to the Youth Justice Board, but for 2009/10 the Youth Justice Board has indicated the annual Plan will not be required.

Validation of the 2008/09 annual Youth Justice Plan and associated action plan was completed in November 2008. Quarterly monitoring visits by Regional Youth Justice officers, have been carried out to check on progress. This will continue throughout 2009/10.

If an annual Youth Justice plan is required for 2010/11, once national guidance has been issued, the following process will be undertaken to comply with the Council's Budget and Policy framework - an initial report on performance in 2009/10 and emerging issues to review, will be considered by Cabinet in January 2010. Consultation with partners and stakeholders will be carried out, in addition to consideration by the designated Scrutiny Forum. Cabinet will then consider a final draft of the Youth Justice Plan 2010/11, prior to approval being sought from the Council.

3. CRIME, DISORDER AND DRUGS STRATEGY 2008-2014

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 defines the Council as one of 5 'Responsible Authorities' in relation to partnership working to tackle crime, disorder and substance misuse matters in the District. The Council must therefore participate in the activity of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership.

The Safer Hartlepool Partnership conducted its annual review of crime, disorder and substance misuse in December 2008 (known as the strategic assessment). This has provided the evidence to develop the Partnership's Plan for 2009/10, which comprises Year 2 of the strategy for crime, disorder and substance misuse 2008-11. The Partnership Plan was published on 1st April 2009 and is available to download at www.saferhartlepool.co.uk or a copy can be obtained from the Safer Hartlepool Partnership Office at 8 Church Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7DJ or by telephoning the office on 01429 405577.

The Partnership will conduct its next strategic assessment in December 2009, when annual priorities will be identified for 2010/11.

In Autumn 2010, the annual assessment will lead to the development of a Partnership strategy for 2011-2014.

B. SCHEDULE OF KEY DECISIONS

DECISION REFERENCE: RP137/08 VICTORIA HARBOUR SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)

Nature of the decision

Cabinet will be asked to endorse the draft Victoria Harbour SPD for public consultation.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet.

Ward(s) affected

The ward affected is St Hilda.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in November 2009.

Who will be consulted and how?

The draft document submitted to Cabinet will take account of earlier consultation with key stakeholders, notably PD Ports and Tees Valley Regeneration. Subject to Cabinet agreement, the document will be published for public consultation in November 2009. The document will be available online on the Council's website and on the planning policy consultation website. Copies of the document will also be available within Bryan Hanson House, the Civic Centre and within the Central Library and all of the branch libraries within Hartlepool. Council Officers will also give presentations on the draft SPD within the Neighbourhood Forum meetings and any other meetings deemed appropriate.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

Cabinet is asked to consider the draft Victoria Harbour SPD. This document will form part of the planning framework for the authority and will guide development within Victoria Harbour. It will help to provide guidance on what can be developed within Victoria Harbour and the timescales for development of individual areas within the site. This document will be broadly in line with the approved masterplan (included within the Outline planning permission which was approved by Planning Committee in February 2006 subject to the completion of a Section 106 agreement) however will not be as prescriptive – this SPD must guide any development that comes forward on this site, whether that be in the form of the approved masterplan or any alternative proposals. The

SPD will also include guidance on the design principles that developments on Victoria Harbour should conform with. Cabinet will be asked to approve the document for a 6 week public consultation period scheduled to take place during November 2009.

How to make representation

Subject to Cabinet approval, representations can be made on the draft document during the public consultation period within November 2009 (exact dates not yet known). Representations can either be made online on the planning policy consultation website or in writing to:

Planning Policy Team
Bryan Hanson House
Hanson Square
Hartlepool
TS24 7BT

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Matthew King, Principal Planning Officer, Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool, TS24 7BT. Tel: 01429 284084. E-mail: matthew.king@hartlepool.gov.uk

DECISION REFERENCE: RP139/08 TEES VALLEY METRO PROPOSALS

Nature of the decision

To endorse the undertaking of further design work on Phase 1 of the Tees Valley Metro (rapid transit) system and to report on work completed to date.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet.

Ward(s) affected

The wards affected are all wards.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in November 2009.

Who will be consulted and how?

Hartlepool Partnership and public consultation on broad proposals perhaps with other major transport schemes across the Tees Valley.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

The report will describe the work undertaken so far on the Tees Valley Metro Project, the recommended solution and potential phasing. The situation regarding funding will be described, particularly in relation to parts of phase 1 of the project. The need for a local contribution from each local authority in the Tees Valley will be explained to be funded from Local Transport Plan resources. The improvements proposed at Hartlepool Station as part of phase 1 will be outlined. Agreement will be sought to progress the project to the detailed design stage using funding provided by the Department of Transport.

How to make representation

Representations can be made in writing to Stuart Green, Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool, TS24 7BT. Tel. 01429 523401, e-mail. Stuart.green@hartlepool.gov.uk.

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Stuart Green as above.

DECISION REFERENCE: RP143/08 – CENTRAL AREA ACQUISITIONS

Nature of the decision

To consider and agree the purchase price of key properties identified in the Hartlepool Central Area acquisitions strategy, which is one of the proposals contained within the Central Area Investment Framework. Detailed approval is also required for the use of Single Programme (or other relevant funding streams) to fund the subsequent purchases. As there are a number of identified properties in the area, the timing of individual purchases will vary and it is therefore anticipated that a series of decisions will be required to take advantage of opportunities as and when they arise.

Who will make the decision?

The decisions will be made by the Finance and Performance Portfolio Holder and the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development, following negotiations by Hartlepool Borough Council's Estates Manager who was authorised to negotiate with the owners of identified properties at a Joint Regeneration and Liveability, and Finance and Efficiency Portfolio meeting on the 3rd February 2009.

Ward(s) affected

Stranton.

Timing of the decision

The earliest decision is expected to be made in November 2009.

Who will be consulted and how?

The Regeneration and Liveability and Finance and Efficiency Portfolio Holders considered the proposals at a joint meeting on the 3rd February 2009 and agreed that the purchase price for the identified properties would be reported back following negotiations by Hartlepool Borough Council's Estates Manager.

One North East will be consulted initially on the related Single Programme bid, although this may be extended to other funding agencies such as the Homes and Communities Agency, depending on the outcome of ongoing discussions.

Local ward members and residents through the Burbank Forum, are to be consulted in relation to the broader Central Area Investment Framework proposals.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

Cabinet noted the findings of the Central Area Investment Framework on the 15th December 2008 and were informed that decisions relating to the development and delivery of individual project initiatives included in the Central Area Investment Framework would be presented to relevant Portfolio Holders.

The Central Area Investment Framework was developed in order to respond to One NorthEast's increasing emphasis on prioritising resources towards strategic investment which increases private sector investment opportunities, job creation, and GVA (income generated by economic activity).

The Central Area Investment Framework provides the strategic justification for Investment in Central Hartlepool and lists specific proposals that will form the basis for funding bids.

Building on the redevelopment of Hartlepool College of Further Education, one of the key recommendations is to create an Innovation and Skills Quarter in the East Central Area with the aim of redefining the economic asset base.

As part of a comprehensive approach to delivering the ISQ an acquisitions strategy has been developed which identifies key properties that need addressing in order to support the recommendations of the strategy and ensure the regeneration proposals are developed in a co-ordinated way.

A number of properties have been identified as immediate priorities for acquisition and clearance due to their impact on the areas environmental underperformance and the opportunities that they present for future redevelopment. It is these properties that this report relates to. Other funding sources may be utilised to fund purchases including Growth Point funding. This option will be required if the acquisitions are to enable residential development.

The acquisitions will form the basis of funding bids to One North East for Single Programme.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Geoff Thompson, Head of Regeneration, Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, , Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool TS24. Telephone 01429 523597 e-mail: geoff.thompson@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained by contacting Rob Smith, Senior Regeneration Officer, Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, , Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool TS24 7BT. Telephone 01429 523531, e-mail rob.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk

DECISION REFERENCE: NS112/07 VICTORIA PARK

Nature of the decision

To consider proposals for land transactions with Hartlepool United Football Club in connection with Victoria Park.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Executive Committee of Cabinet.

Wards affected

The wards affected are Central Forum, specifically Stranton Ward in particular, but there is town wide interest in the Football Club.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in December 2009.

Who will be consulted and how?

Hartlepool United Football Club
Local Residents
Ward Members
All Council Members

Information to be considered by the decision makers

The Football Club have approached the Council to purchase the freehold of Victoria Park and an area of open space to the north.

The Club have undertaken significant developments at the ground and wish to secure the freehold to assist in their future investment programme. They also intend to develop their Football in the Community Scheme on land to the north of the ground.

The Executive Committee of Cabinet will need to consider the club's proposals in line with the local environment/community and the Council's vision for the area including the Mill House Leisure Centre and associated facilities. Car parking facilities and overall town centre requirements will also be a consideration.

The development of the Mill House site depends very much on the future of the swimming baths and links with potential H2O Centre on Victoria Harbour. Cabinet considered this at meetings in September and November 2008 and further examination

Appendix 1

into the potential of the Mill House site was requested, including how the Football Club could be involved. Discussions with the Club have progressed to a point without reaching any conclusion.

Consultations with local residents and Ward Members including a presentation to all Members will be arranged once proposals have been received from the Football Club. If proposals are received in the next month then consultation could take place in November / December 2009 (including a report to the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee) with a decision potentially scheduled for December 2009 / January 2010. This timing is very much dependent on the proposals received from the Football Club. These proposals are still awaited.

The potential purchase will also need to be considered against the Council's capital strategy and asset management plan and the financial position.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Graham Frankland, Head of Procurement, Property and Public Protection, Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 523211.

E Mail: Graham.frankland@hartlepool.gov.uk.

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Graham Frankland, as above.

DECISION STRATEGY REFERENCE: NS134/09 PUBLIC CONVENIENCE

Nature of the decision

To seek approval for a Public Convenience strategy to meet the needs of Hartlepool.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet.

Wards affected

All wards are affected.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in December 2009

Who will be consulted and how?

The general public via Neighbourhood Consultative Forums
Council departments by invitation
Resident Groups and Associations by invitation

Information to be considered by the decision makers

The purpose of this report is to introduce the proposed and newly developed policy for the future provision of public conveniences in Hartlepool.

The proposed policy is based upon the outcomes of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Review and re-examination of the relevant evidence and information available relating to the provision of Public Convenience in Hartlepool.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Denise Ogden, Head of Neighbourhood Management, Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 523211.

Email: denise.ogden@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Denise Ogden, as above.

DECISION REFERENCE: NS137/09 EXTENDING THE OUT-OF-HOURS NOISE PATROL

Nature of the decision

That Cabinet notes the potential cost and associated implications and decides whether to recruit additional staff and extend the current 'Out-of-Hours Noise Service' and to refer this matter to Council as part of the 2010 / 11 budget and policy framework process.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet.

Wards affected

All wards are affected.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made November 2009 and referred to Council later in the year.

Who will be consulted and how?

Cabinet, by written report.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

Cabinet report on 'Extending the Out-of-Hours Noise Patrol' will consider a variety of options, costs and benefits.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Sylvia Tempest, Environmental Standards Manager, Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Church Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7DS. Tel: 01429 523316.

E-mail address sylvia.tempest@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Sylvia Tempest, contact details above.

DECISION REFERENCE: RN1/09 – HARTLEPOOL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Nature of the decision

Cabinet will be asked to support the principle of developing a Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document for Hartlepool.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet.

Ward(s) affected

The Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document will impact on all wards across Hartlepool.

Timing of the decision

The decision will be made in November 2009.

Who will be consulted and how?

It is envisaged that this document would undergo a six week public consultation period on the first draft document in line with the guidance set out in the Statement of Community Involvement 2009. This period would give all residents and other interested parties the opportunity to share their views on the document. The document would be available on the Hartlepool Borough Council Website, on the Planning Policy Consultation Website and hard copies would also be available to view in the main Council buildings including Bryan Hanson House, the Civic Centre, in all libraries and in Summerhill. Presentations would be given by relevant officers at the Neighbourhood Forums and at any other relevant meetings.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

At this time Cabinet are being asked to support the principle of the production of a Hartlepool Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document, which will form part of the Local Development Framework for Hartlepool. If this principle is supported the Cabinet would be required to endorse a draft document in due course prior to any public consultation.

How to make representation

Appendix 1

Once the draft Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document is produced interested parties will be able to make representations during the public consultation period (exact dates not yet known). Representations can either be made online on the planning policy consultation website or in writing to:

Planning Policy Team
Bryan Hanson House
Hanson Square
Hartlepool
TS24 7BT

Further information

If you require any further information on this document please contact Matthew King, Principal Planning Officer, Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool, TS24 7BT. Telephone 01429 284084, e-mail matthew.king@hartlepool.gov.uk

DECISION REFERENCE: RN2/09 HARTLEPOOL COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION – CONFIRMATION OF CONTRIBUTION

Nature of the decision

To confirm the provision of a contribution of £1½m towards the costs of the proposed new Hartlepool College of Further Education.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet.

Ward(s) affected

All wards are affected.

Timing of the decision

The decision will be made in November 2009.

Who will be consulted and how?

Consultation was undertaken as part of the formulation of the proposals for the new College with key stakeholders and the community and as part of the Planning Permission Approval process.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

The proposal for the new Hartlepool College of Further Education will be outlined and the success in securing very substantial funding from the Learning and Skills Council towards the £51m+ scheme. The financial contributions from Teesside University, ONE NorthEast and the Council and its partners that were necessary to secure approval from the Learning and Skills Council for Hartlepool College's new facilities, will be discussed.

The substantial role the new College will have in the regeneration of Hartlepool, training and education and economic development in the town will also be set out. Confirmation of the financial contribution promised in principle will be sought with the sources of funding outlined, including a significant contribution from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund agreed by the Skills Partnership. The contribution from ONE North East of £1½m from Single Programme projects earmarked within Hartlepool in the Tees Valley Single Programme will also be explained.

How to make representation

Representations can be made in writing to Stuart Green, Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development) Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool, TS24 7BT. Tel. 01429 523401, e-mail. Stuart.green@hartlepool.gov.uk.

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Stuart Green as above.

DECISION REFERENCE: RN4/09 – Housing Market Renewal Programme 2008-11

Nature of the decision

Key decision to update on the progress of the 2008/11 HMR programme and to consider the scope and next steps in the delivery of each of the sites within the programme.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet.

Ward(s) affected

The wards affected are Dyke House, Foggy Furze and Grange.

Timing of the decision

It is anticipated the decision will be made in December 2009 or January 2010.

Who will be consulted and how?

Housing Market Renewal interventions currently being progressed in central Hartlepool have been developed through successive rounds of community consultations and engagement process remain current and ongoing.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

Cabinet will be presented with the current scheme progress. Including an update of the current funding position and Cabinet will be asked to consider options and mechanisms available for scheme delivery across individual intervention sites. Measures to undertake and complete scheme delivery on each scheme will be considered together with the potential benefits and risks linked to each option.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Telephone 01429 523301 e-mail: dave.stubbs@hartlepool.gov.uk.

Further information

Further information can be sought by contacting Nigel Johnson (Housing and Regeneration Coordinator) 01429 284339 or Amy Waters (Principal Housing and Regeneration Officer) 523539.

APPENDIX 1

DETAILS OF DECISION MAKERS

THE CABINET

Many decisions will be taken collectively by the Cabinet.

- The Mayor, Stuart Drummond
- Councillors Payne, Hargreaves, Hall, Hill, Tumilty, Jackson

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Members of the Cabinet have individual decision making powers according to their identified responsibilities.

Community Safety and Housing Portfolio	-	The Mayor, Stuart Drummond
Finance and Performance Portfolio	-	Robbie Payne
Regeneration and Economic Development Portfolio	-	Pamela Hargreaves
Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio	-	Ged Hall
Children's Services Portfolio	-	Cath Hill
Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio	-	Victor Tumilty
Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio	-	Peter Jackson

APPENDIX 2**TIMETABLE OF KEY DECISIONS**

Decisions are shown on the timetable at the earliest date at which they may be expected to be made.

1. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN NOVEMBER 2009**1.1 DATE NOT YET DETERMINED**

CE33/09 (page 6)	Strategic Land Acquisition	Cabinet
RP137/08 (page 16)	Victoria Harbour Supplementary Planning Document	Cabinet
RP139/08 (page 18)	Tees Valley Metro Proposals	Cabinet
RP143/08 (page 19)	Central Area Acquisitions	Portfolio Holders
NS 137/09 (page 24)	Extending the Out-of-Hours Noise Patrol	Cabinet
RN 1/09 (page 25)	Hartlepool Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document	Cabinet
RN2/09 (page 27)	Hartlepool College of Further Education – Confirmation of Contribution	Cabinet

2. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN DECEMBER 2009**2.1 DATE NOT YET DETERMINED**

ED61/09 (page 10)	Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Managed Service – Appointment of Preferred Bidder	Cabinet
NS 112/07 (page 21)	Victoria Park	Cabinet
NS 134/09 (page 23)	Public Convenience Strategy	Cabinet
RN4/09 (page 29)	Housing Market Renewal Programme 2008/11	Cabinet

3. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN JANUARY 2010

None

4. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN FEBRUARY 2010

None

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

13 November 2009



Report of: Chief Personnel Officer

Subject: WORKFORCE ISSUES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present workforce issues which may be considered in more detail by a working group of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 A Working Group was constituted from representatives of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group/Cabinet to be involved in the development of the People Strategy and the Single Status Agreement. Over time the group was extended to include more members of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, all Cabinet members and Group Officers. The involvement of the Single Status Working Group was critical to the Agreement reached in principle between officers and Trade Union representative prior to receiving political approval.
- 2.2 The Local Joint Consultative Committee held on 2nd October 2009 received a report on Single Status Appeals and as a result of discussions asked that Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee consider the role of a working group with regard to workforce matters such as some of the outstanding reviews as specified in the Single Status Agreement.

3. WORKFORCE ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Single Status Agreement Reviews - Table 1 below provides details of the outstanding Reviews.

Table 1 - Single Status Agreement Review Timetable

Issue	Review by
Residential Caretakers	31 March 2010
<i>This applies almost exclusively to School employees and is nearing completion</i>	

<p>Out of hours arrangements for caretakers/ site supervisors in schools (excluding replacing Lettings arrangements by standard overtime arrangements)</p> <p><i>This applies exclusively to School employees and needs to be considered alongside the Residential Caretakers review</i></p>	31 March 2010
<p>Development Schemes</p> <p><i>These schemes replace the old Career Grades and the review is nearing completion</i></p>	31 March 2010
<p>Recruitment and Retention Payments</p> <p><i>The current scheme, which was developed in conjunction with Members, needs reviewing to ensure it is fit for purpose and consistent with Single Status.</i></p>	31 March 2010
<p>Flexible Working</p> <p><i>This review will consider the current flexible working arrangements, flexitime scheme and any legislative changes to ensure that employee work life balance is achieved in a manner consistent with Council needs</i></p>	31 March 2010
<p>Starting salary on appointment</p> <p><i>The criteria for determining starting salary on appointment need reviewing.</i></p>	31 March 2010
<p>Contractual arrangements for 'short term or casual' employees and workers</p> <p><i>This is a technical review to ensure that there is consistency of application of conditions of service for 'short term or casual' employees and workers and also when their employment extends for a number of weeks/months</i></p>	31 March 2010
<p>Sickness Conditions of Service</p> <p><i>There is a need to bring together the various sickness provisions into a single place and ensure they are fit for purpose</i></p>	30 June 2010

<p>Car, Motor Cycle and Cycle Allowances</p> <p><i>This is an important element of the 2010/11 budget strategy and may become a contentious issue. If this was to become a topic for the Working Group it would have to be given immediate priority.</i></p>	30 September 2010
<p>Car Parking</p> <p><i>Depending upon the outcome of the Car, Motor Cycle and Cycle Allowances, it may be necessary to amend the criteria for allocating car parking spaces to employees. This may become a contentious issue.</i></p>	30 September 2010
<p>Employee Code of Conduct</p> <p><i>The Government have recently consulted over a national employee code of conduct which, if legislated for, will be automatically incorporated into contracts of employment. May be a need to supplement the code with guidance etc for employees. If a national code is not legislated for then the current code needs reviewing to ensure it is fit for purpose</i></p>	31 December 2010
<p>Standby Duty</p> <p><i>A variety of different standby pay arrangements are currently in operation. This may become a contentious issue. Work on this is unlikely to commence until April 2010 at the earliest and it may be appropriate to consider this as part of the work plan for 2010/11</i></p>	31 March 2011
<p>Free meals when supervising children or when required to take meals with service users</p> <p><i>There are inconsistencies in the arrangements for when employees receive free meals. Work on this is unlikely to commence until April 2010 at the earliest and it may be appropriate to consider this as part of the work plan for 2010/11</i></p>	31 March 2011
<p>Telephone allowance</p> <p><i>Telephone allowances need modernising to recognise changes in working arrangements as a result of changes in technology e.g. mobile telephones. Work on this is unlikely to</i></p>	31 March 2011

<i>commence until April 2010 at the earliest and it may be appropriate to consider this as part of the work plan for 2010/11</i>	
<p>Excess Travel</p> <p><i>This relates to payments to compensate for additional travel costs when employees change their place of work. Unlikely to have any significant impact. Work on this is unlikely to commence until April 2010 at the earliest and it may be appropriate to consider this as part of the work plan for 2010/11</i></p>	31 March 2011
<p>First Aid allowance outside job</p> <p><i>The first aid provision and payments arrangements need to reflect recent changes to Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance on the provision of first aiders. Work on this is unlikely to commence until April 2010 at the earliest and it may be appropriate to consider this as part of the work plan for 2010/11</i></p>	31 March 2011
<p>Keyholding outside working hours</p> <p><i>Affects a small number of employees who hold keys for buildings when Caretakers etc. are on holiday outside Hartlepool. Work on this is unlikely to commence until April 2010 at the earliest and it may be appropriate to consider this as part of the work plan for 2010/11</i></p>	31 March 2011

3.2 Member Development

The Council was a pilot of the IDeA Workforce Improvement Challenge earlier this year. One of the key recommendations in the feedback (**Appendix 1**) was “Encourage take up of member development opportunities”.

3.3 People & Workforce Development Strategies

The current People and Workforce Strategies need reviewing and updating. The results of the IDeA Workforce Improvement Challenge, Employee Survey and Service Delivery Review of HR Services will be used to develop a proposed new People Framework, an integrated and cohesive strategy for all workforce matters.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 That Members of the Committee consider:

- a) setting up a Workforce Matters Working Group and determine its membership
- b) identify which issues, and associated timescales, for the Workforce Matters Working Group to consider.

4. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (i) IDeA Workforce Improvement Challenge Feedback Report
- (ii) Employee Survey Report
- (iii) Notes of the Local Joint Consultative Committee Meeting held on 2 October 2009

5. CONTACT OFFICER

Joanne Machers – Chief Personnel Officer
Chief Executive's Department – HR
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523 003
Email: joanne.machers@hartlepool.gov.uk

IDeA Workforce Improvement Challenge Feedback Report

Identified Strengths Against the Benchmark	Key Recommendations
The organisation knows in the medium to longer term what staff it will need with what skills and has plans to achieve this	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People are committed, passionate about their work and proud to work for the council • Real sense of place – “the Hartlepool Way” • Customer focussed organisation • Workforce planning toolkit available • Some evidence of joint workforce planning with partners • Good engagement on regional workforce activities • Strong managerial and political leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure clear understanding of workforce planning across the council • Consistent application of workforce planning across departments • Strategic approach needed to succession planning and talent management • New patterns working need to be explored to align with partner activities • Ensure the new HR/Payroll system will deliver the data required to inform workforce planning • Investigate benchmarking with other local authorities • Ensure results of current employee survey are acted upon in a timely manner and feedback is given to employees.
Has a productive and skilled workforce	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National recognition for commitment and delivery of Skills for Life • Apprenticeship and trainee schemes including commitment to NGDP • Extensive range of learning opportunities • Investment in external training • “Grow your own”, including career pathways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage take up of member development opportunities • Consideration of future apprenticeship numbers and take a strategic approach to apprenticeships • Capacity can be a barrier in some areas • Higher level of evaluation of learning, including ROI • Management development needs to be reviewed in light of business transformation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad range of member development opportunities • Managers are very accessible and supportive in terms of coaching employees • Comprehensive management competency framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior management development needs to be reviewed with a particular focus on leadership • Continued investment in development opportunities • Strategic approach to learning and development aligned with need. • Explore service specific competencies
Engages and supports staff in organisational change	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managers listen to staff • Good communication channels • Cross departmental project work • Employees encouraged to try new ways of working • Learning from experience and other organisations • Good employee relations • Employees encouraged to participate in service planning • Clear objectives for business transformation and commitment to involve employees and trade unions • Initial job evaluation briefings and documentation were well received 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to target communication according to audience and ensure communication is understood by all employees • Evaluate impact of business transformation on the workforce and carry out equality impact assessment before implementation • Ensure people are engaged throughout the process and consider employee morale • Consider providing additional support for employees who find the pace and volume of change difficult • Learn the lessons from job evaluation prior to implementing business transformation. • Expedite job evaluation appeals
Achieves people management and diversity best practice	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved Level 3 Equality Standard • Good flexible working practices • Sickness absence levels improving • Staff recognition for revised appraisal process • Poor performance actively managed • Scrutiny review performance and contribute to workforce policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure consistency and understanding of DIA's and INRA's • Ensure capacity of HR can meet future requirements for strategic workforce planning and projects • Full implementation of the appraisal process – revisit the cascade approach • Further development of targeting of minority groups in terms of recruitment to ensure that the council workforce reflects the local labour market

A Relevant and Effective Pay and Reward Approach	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Celebrating Success positively received by employees• Pay review complete• Contingency plans in place for future pay pressures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consideration of different ways of celebrating/rewarding good performance• Marketing of reward package• Consider other staff benefits to enhance package

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

13 November 2009



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services & Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: 'CHILD POVERTY' – SETTING THE SCENE REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee of the current facts surrounding child poverty in Hartlepool.
- 1.2 To show Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee a comparison of child poverty in Hartlepool against the region and the rest of the country.
- 1.3 To 'set the scene' with information that will enable a thorough investigation into child poverty.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1. At the meeting of this Committee on 18 September 2009, Members agreed to the "Scrutiny Investigation into 'Child Poverty' – Scoping Report" which aimed to explore and understand the key issues and factors that lead to child poverty and evaluate the Council, and its partners, in their activities to reduce/eradicate it.
- 2.2 In March 1999 the Government announced that it was committed to eradicating child poverty from a national baseline of 3.4 million¹ children who were living in poverty during 1998/99. Targets were set by the Government to cut child poverty by a quarter by 2004/05, by half by 2010/11 and to eradicate child poverty by 2020. In 2006/07 there were 2.9 million² children living in poverty.

¹ Department for Work and Pensions, 2009

² Child Poverty Action Group, October 2008

- 2.3 The Local Authority has chosen the National Performance Indicator NI 116 which includes the responsibility to reduce the proportion of children in poverty, specifically:-

“This role includes the delivery of the key public services that are critical to improving poor children’s life chances; coordination of activities by key players to reduce worklessness and poverty; the tailoring of solutions to meet needs of local people; and ensuring engagement of individuals and groups at risk of being marginalized.”³

- 2.4 On 11 June 2009 the Child Poverty Bill 2008-09 was introduced to the House of Commons and it was proposed that an amendment be made to Section 4 of the Local Government Act 2000 which:

“Places a duty on local authorities and their partners to co-operate to tackle child poverty in their area, to carry out an assessment of the levels of child poverty in that area, and to prepare a joint local child poverty strategy”⁴

3. OVERALL AIM OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION/ENQUIRY

- 3.1 It was agreed in the Committee meeting of the 18 September 2009 that the following items should be looked at as part of the review process:

- 3.2 To explore and understand the key issues/ factors that lead to child poverty and evaluate the Council, and its partners’, activities to reduce/ eradicate it.

Specifically:

- (a) To gain an understanding of legislation and targets relating to the reduction/ eradication of child poverty;
- (b) To gain an understanding of child poverty levels/ statistics in Hartlepool and how the local position compares to the regional and national picture;
- (c) To explore the key issues/ factors that lead to child poverty and the ways in which the cycle can be broken;
- (d) To seek and compare good practice from another local authority in relation to the reduction/ eradication of child poverty; and
- (e) To consider/ evaluate the activities being undertaken by the Council, and its partners, to address the issue of child poverty in Hartlepool and suggest (where appropriate) possible changes / improvements.

- 3.3 This report looks in particular at items (a), (b), and (c) and begins to explore item (e) in readiness for further Scrutiny meetings.

³ Communities and Local Government, 2009

⁴ Child Poverty Bill, June 2009

4. THE CHILD POVERTY BILL

- 4.1 In June 2009 the government's Child Poverty Unit (a newly established cross-cutting government department) published the Child Poverty Bill which intends to enshrine in law their commitment to ending child poverty. The purpose of the Bill is to set out a clear framework of accountability at both national and local level and to improve partnership working to tackle child poverty.
- 4.2 The Bill is currently making its way through the parliamentary process. To date it has had its first and second readings in the House of Commons. It will take some time before it achieves Royal Assent though this is certainly expected to be in early 2010.
- 4.3 The Bill defines a number of expectations at a strategic level. These include:-
- (i) **Provide a definition of success** - a clear understanding of targets that must be met in order to eradicate child poverty.
 - To reduce the proportion of children who live in relative low income to less than 10%.
 - To reduce the proportion of families who live in material deprivation and have low income to less than 5%.
 - To reduce the proportion of children that experience long periods of poverty.
 - To reduce the number of children who live in absolute low income to less than 5%.
 - (ii) **Ensure targeted and sustained action is taken by everybody** - this includes the Government publishing a UK-wide child poverty strategy to be revised every three years until 2020.
 - (iii) **Boost accountability of Government** - this includes Government publishing an annual progress report to Parliament that tracks progress towards targets as well as the establishment of an expert Commission.
 - (iv) **Specific action by the Devolved Administrations** - this includes Scotland and Northern Ireland publishing their own strategies clearly setting out their intentions and actions.
 - (v) **Action at a local level** - the duty on Local Authorities and their partners to prioritise and tackle child poverty in order to improve outcomes for disadvantaged children and their families. This includes conducting a needs assessment and producing a joint local child poverty strategy.

5. LEGISLATION AND TARGETS RELATING TO THE REDUCTION/ERADICATION OF CHILD POVERTY

- 5.1 In March 1999 the Government announced that it was committed to eradicating child poverty from a national baseline of 3.4 million⁵ children who were living in poverty during 1998/99. Targets were set by the Government to cut child poverty by a quarter by 2004/05, by half by 2010/11 and to eradicate child poverty by 2020. In 2006/07 there were 2.9 million⁶ children living in poverty.
- 5.2 Within Hartlepool's Local Area Agreement for 2008-11, child poverty is a key improvement target. Hartlepool Borough Council is one of only 45 LAAs in the Country to include NI 116 as a priority target. In addition the new Sustainable Communities Strategy (2008) reinforces the importance of child poverty and sets out key objectives of "reducing child poverty by helping families to improve their earnings and ensuring they get extra assistance if their incomes fall short".
- 5.3 In order to achieve Hartlepool's NI 116 target we will require a reduction in the number of children in families on out of work benefits from 6,384 (28.6%) in 2007 to 4,298 (19.7%) in 2010/11. This calculation is based on current data of actual children in Hartlepool in 2007 which was 22,324.

6. DEFINITION OF CHILD POVERTY

- 6.1 There are four commonly used definitions to measure child poverty:-
- (i) **Absolute low income:** a level below which people lack the necessary food, clothing, or shelter to survive. On this definition, a single person is considered to be in poverty with an income of less than £145 per week (at 2005/06 thresholds before housing costs). Similarly, a couple with two children are classed as poor with an income of less than £332 per week.
 - (ii) **Relative low income:** this is defined as the level below which a citizen has the economic capacity to participate fully in the society in which he or she lives. This is routinely set as below 60% of the median wage.
 - (iii) **Material deprivation:** hybrid of 'lacking certain goods and services and being below 70% of the median wage'.
 - (iv) **Index of child wellbeing in the European Union** (composite measure based on many indicators on a 'causal' model rather than 'effect' model).
- 6.2 In 2007, HM Treasury made a decision to measure absolute, relative and material deprivation collectively so that eradicating child poverty in the long

⁵ Department for Work and Pensions, 2009

⁶ Child Poverty Action Group, October 2008

term would only be met if all three measures were achieved (Source: HM Treasury (2004) *Child Poverty Review*, July, paragraph 3.22, page 24).

- 6.3 However, Hartlepool currently uses a proxy to measure the level of child poverty through the Department of Works and Pensions/ Office for National Statistics data. The figures represent the percentage of children in poverty as measured by children in families receiving key benefits.

7. CHILD POVERTY LEVELS/ STATISTICS FOR HARTLEPOOL, THE REGION AND THE COUNTRY

- 7.1 Table 1 indicates that since 2001, child poverty rates in Hartlepool have fluctuated year on year. (Source: Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit, 2009).

Table 1 - Analysis of Children in Working Age Families on Key Benefits*

	May-01	May-02	May-03	May-04	May-05	May-06	May-07
Hartlepool	28.4	29.4	28.1	29.8	28.3	28.8	28.6
UK	19.1	18.5	18.3	20.2	19.7	19.7	19.6

*These figures are reported in the month of May each year. However, the May 2008 figures are currently not available due to Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) Department's data embargo.

- 7.2 Table 2 highlights the overall employment rates in Hartlepool compared to the Tees Valley, North East and England. (Source: Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit, 2009).

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004*	2005*	2006*	2007*	2008*
Hartlepool	64.5	66.1	63.8	65.0	65.0	67.2	66.6	65.6	67.0
Tees Valley	66.6	66.6	67.2	68.1	70.2	70.4	70.9	70.0	68.3
North East	68.4	68.4	68.6	68.5	70.0	70.9	70.8	71.6	70.8
UK	74.1	74.3	74.2	74.3	74.4	74.5	74.3	74.4	74.2

* year end December

- 7.3 It is important to note that a number of attributing demographic factors impact on the child poverty rate in Hartlepool. Approximately 90,000 people live in the town with 1.2% from black and minority ethnic communities. Despite significant regeneration over the past twenty years, the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2007 indicates that Hartlepool is ranked as the 23rd most deprived of England's 354 Local Authority districts with 11 super output areas

within the 5% most deprived nationally. Further demographic factors are summarised below:-

- (i) 28.6% of children live in households where parents claim a benefit;
- (ii) Unemployment in September 2009 stood at 7.1%;
- (iii) The youth unemployment percentage rate has increased to 34.3% (count of 1,335) claimants;
- (iv) Hartlepool has the second highest number of adults with no qualifications at 16.7% which is above the sub-region (15.4%), region (13.4%) and UK rate (12.4%);
- (v) 18,900 (33.7%) of working age adults in Hartlepool are classified as workless (people without work for whatever reason including those not seeking work and residents who are economically active) which is above the UK rate (27.9%);
- (vi) The number of working age adults on an out-of-work benefit in Hartlepool is 21.2% which compares unfavourably to the Tees Valley rate of 17.5% and the North East rate of 16.5%;
- (vii) 12.7% of adults claim an incapacity or other sickness related benefit in Hartlepool with the Neighbourhood Renewal Area rate being 18%;
- (viii) 39.4% of the working age population have qualifications to NVQ 3 or above however 16.7% have no qualifications;
- (ix) 7.1% of households are in housing need;
- (x) Lone parent households is 8.7% compared to 6.5% nationally;
- (xi) Hartlepool has the second highest teenage pregnancy rate nationally;
- (xii) Free school meals rate for 5 to 16 year old pupils is currently 22.4% and is above the national average;
- (xiii) 3,443 children aged 3-17 years are recorded by schools as having a Special Educational Need (SEN);
- (xiv) People with limiting long term illness is 24.4% compared to 18.2% nationally;
- (xv) Income support is more than twice the national average in our NRF wards - 8.1% nationally, 12.9% across the town and 19.9% in the NRF wards;

- (xvi) In the past 7 years Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disability Allowance claimants in the most deprived wards has reduced at a faster rate than the national average. However, it still remains at twice above the national average;
- (xvii) Hartlepool's overall employment rate currently stands at 63.9%; and
- (xviii) The average gross weekly wages for a full time worker is estimated at £461.00.

8. KEY ISSUES/ FACTORS THAT LEAD TO CHILD POVERTY AND HOW THE CYCLE CAN BE BROKEN

8.1 Research has shown that there are a number of vulnerable groups most at risk of being in poverty. The following serves to highlight some of these groups though the list is not exhaustive:-

- (i) Families where one or more adults is/ are out of work;
- (ii) Families where one or more adults work/s part time;
- (iii) Ethnic minority families;
- (iv) Families who have caring responsibilities - including those caring for the elderly and those with young children;
- (v) Lone parents;
- (vi) Families where one or more of the adults are disabled;
- (vii) Families where one or more of their children are disabled;
- (viii) Large families with more than three children;
- (ix) Families with children aged less than five years;
- (x) Families with a history of depression/ mental health illness, substance misuse and/ or a history of domestic violence; and
- (xi) Families with offenders in prison.

8.2 Research has shown that the socio-economic cost implications and consequences of not tackling child poverty is often immeasurable to the individual and the wider community. It is unlikely that there will ever be a precise calculation on the full cost of child poverty to individuals, society and the wider economy due to the intricacies of this subject. HM Treasury believes that the UK continues to underestimate the extent, severity and the structural basis of child poverty, and so fails to appreciate its true personal and social cost.

- 8.3 Only a small number of studies have produced estimations of the overall cost of child poverty in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. Financial figures for the UK suggest that child poverty could cost the country almost £40 billion a year, which equates to £640 per capita or more than £2,500 a year for a family of four. This estimate includes £13 billion for reduced productivity and economic output, £13 billion for the higher costs of crime and £12 billion for the costs of poorer health. (TUC, 2007).
- 8.4 Exposure to poverty is often cited as the central component of the inter-generational cycle of worklessness, low educational attainment and reduced prosperity. Negative employment outcomes sometimes stem from the model parents set for their children. It is accepted that having a significant proportion of the population out of work and training is detrimental to the economy, through reduced productivity and competitiveness. This includes those young people aged 16 to 18 years who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) which has significant costs to the local and national economy in terms of benefits and lost taxes. The fiscal cost to the government for those young people who are NEET is estimated to be above £10 billion over the lifetime of a two-year cohort. (Hirsch, 2006).
- 8.5 In the UK it is estimated that £500 million of additional primary healthcare expenditure is required as a direct result of child poverty. HM Treasury estimates that poor health has wider costs to the economy as a result of sickness absence and lower productivity rates.
- 8.6 National and international research clearly shows the effects that no action taken to reduce child poverty will have including:-
- (i) Children exposed to child poverty, hardship and deprivation will suffer. Their own childhood experiences have a significant impact on their ability to operate as an adult in later life. Children born and raised in persistent poverty are likely to have poor children of their own - thus creating a perpetual cycle of deprivation;
 - (ii) Low educational achievement has a knock on effect on an adult's ability to take up skilled work in the marketplace. This in turn limits the potential productivity of the country as a whole. A lack of skilled workers makes it increasingly difficult for the country to compete in the global economy;
 - (iii) Some people, but not all, who live in persistent poverty are in danger of turning to crime in order to 'supplement' their income. Crime affects everyone within a community and puts a drain on local resources;
 - (iv) Children who experience poverty are more likely to develop long term health issues which in turn put a strain on public resources. In addition, as adults with a long term debilitating health issue they are more likely to remain out of work. Low birth weights, respiratory illnesses, including asthma, mental health issues and obesity have clear links to poverty and cannot be ignored;

- (v) Family background is one of the most important predictors of academic success. Children from low-income households are more likely to require remedial help or special educational needs assistance than their better off peers;
 - (vi) Growing up in poverty is associated with a substantially higher risk of teenage pregnancy;
 - (vii) A relationship has also been identified between childhood poverty and living in social housing as an adult with studies demonstrating a strong link between these two factors;
 - (viii) Difficulties of access and expense limit participation in pre-school education amongst lower-income families. Young people from low income households end up leaving school earlier and are around six times more likely to leave without qualifications than those from higher-income households; and
 - (ix) Deprived communities with poor environments and a lack of local resources leads to reduced citizenship, a lack of neighbourliness and trust. Communities are less likely to volunteer or to engage in civic participation.
- 8.7 It is clear that there is a substantial cost to society in terms of resources and services and in terms of fully participative citizens that contribute to overall society.

9. ACTIVITIES CURRENTLY BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE COUNCIL AND ITS PARTNERS

- 9.1 For child poverty to be reduced Hartlepool Borough Council will require short, medium and long term planning and the full support of all delivery agencies from the statutory, private and third sector.
- 9.2 The need for a joined up approach to child poverty was identified by the then Children's Services Department and Regeneration and Planning Department several months ago. With the approval of Cabinet, a draft child poverty strategy, pledge and action plan was prepared in advance of information from Government and this was sent out to consultation during the summer with an end date of September 2009 for comment.
- 9.3 The current draft Child Poverty Strategy has a strong work focus and takes account of the wider issues that impact on children and their families. The Strategy highlights that it will require the full support of all delivery agents from the statutory, private and third sector to work collaboratively towards six key objectives:-
- (i) Ensure that children that live in poverty are safe;
 - (ii) Increase the parental employment rate;

- (iii) Improve skills levels;
 - (iv) Increase the benefit take up rate (including in-work and out-of-work benefits);
 - (v) Prevent those at risk from falling into poverty; and
 - (vi) Where it is evident that a family is experiencing poverty take action to mitigate its effect.
- 9.4 A number of key partners have responded to the consultation process and their comments are to be included in the second draft of the strategy. In addition partners have put forward action points that they feel they can contribute to an overall town wide action plan.
- 9.5 In order to keep the momentum moving it was agreed that an interim Officer led working group be established in order to move forward joint working on child poverty. In addition to consultation comments already received it was felt that the current draft strategy could be revised to include the necessary information that is likely to be required when Government release the new guidance in early 2010.
- 9.6 The first Officer led meeting took place on Thursday 29th October 2009 and included the lead Officer for each of the LSP themes groups. Chaired by the Assistant Director for Policy and Integrated Services (Child and Adult Services) the group explored key issues relating to the task ahead and acknowledged that whilst eradicating child poverty is arguably an impossible task significant steps can be made if partners work together to reducing poverty across the town. The group will continue to meet 6 weekly and will launch the revised Strategy, Action Plan and Pledge following CMT approval.
- 9.7 The Scrutiny process provides a significant opportunity to support Officers in the development of the child poverty strategy and action plan and the outcome of the review will impact on the work of the group and its future actions.

10. RECOMMENDATION

- 10.1 That members note the contents of the report.

Contact Officers: -

Penny Thompson, Childcare Market Officer
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Hartlepool Borough Council
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Patrick Wilson, Employment Development Officer
 Regeneration and Planning Services
 Hartlepool Borough Council
 Tel.: 01429 523517
 Email:patrick.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (a) Department for Work and Pensions (2009) *Child Poverty*, Available from: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/child-poverty> (Accessed 13 August 2009)
- (b) Child Poverty Action Group (October 2008) *Child Poverty: The Stats - Analysis of the Latest Poverty Statistics*, Available from: http://www.cpag.org.uk/info/briefings_policy/CPAG_poverty_the_stats_1008.pdf (Accessed 14 August 2009)
- (c) Communities and Local Government (2009) *Local Priorities Web site*, Available from: <http://www.localpriorities.communities.gov.uk/NIResults.aspx?NIRef=NI%20116> (Accessed 14 August 2009)
- (d) Child Poverty Bill 2008-09 (June 2009), Available from: http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/112/en/09112x--.htm#index_link_1 (Accessed 14 August 2009)
- (d) Department for Work and Pensions (March 2008), *Ending Child Poverty: Everybody's Business*, Available from: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/bud08_childpoverty_1310.pdf (Accessed 14 August 2009)
- (e) Department for Work and Pensions (December 2003) *Measuring Child Poverty*, Available from: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/final-conclusions.pdf> (Accessed 14 August 2009)
- (f) Hartlepool Borough Council (2008), *Sustainable Communities Strategy*
- (g) Her Majesty Revenue and Customs, *Annual Report 2008-09*.
- (h) Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit (2009), various statistics
- (i) Trade Union Congress (2007), *Cutting the Costs of Child Poverty*
- (j) Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Donald Hirsch (October 2008), *Estimating the costs of child poverty*.
- (k) Child Poverty Unit (2009), *Ending Child Poverty: making it happen*.

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

13 November 2009



Report of: Scrutiny Manager

Subject: 'CHILD POVERTY AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION' –
EVIDENCE FROM THE MAYOR AND PORTFOLIO
HOLDERS - COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members that, in accordance with the wishes of the Committee, invitations have been extended to the Mayor and Portfolio Holders to attend today's meeting (subject to availability) to provide evidence in relation to the ongoing investigation into 'Child Poverty and Financial Inclusion'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Committee on 18 September 2009, the Terms of Reference and Potential Areas of Inquiry / Sources of Evidence were approved by the Committee for this scrutiny investigation.
- 2.2 Consequently, the Authority's Mayor and the following Portfolio Holders have been invited to attend today's meeting (subject to availability) to provide evidence in relation to their responsibilities, and views on child poverty and financial inclusion in Hartlepool:-
- (i) Portfolio Holder for Transport and Neighbourhoods;
 - (ii) Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development;
 - (iii) Portfolio Holder for Adult and Community Services; and
 - (iv) Portfolio Holder for Children's Services.
- 2.3 During this evidence gathering session it is suggested that responses should be sought from the Mayor and Portfolio Holders in relation to the following key questions:-
- (a) What are your roles and responsibilities in relation to the prevention of child poverty and promotion of financial inclusion in Hartlepool?
 - (b) What are your views on child poverty levels in Hartlepool?

- (c) What are your views on the levels of child poverty locally, in comparison to national and regional levels?
- (d) What initiatives and practices, if any, do you think have (or could have) a significant and measurable impact on the reduction / eradication of child poverty in Hartlepool?
- (e) What areas of improvement, if any, would you suggest for the Council to deal with child poverty and financial exclusion in Hartlepool?

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Members of the Committee consider the views of the Mayor and Portfolio Holders in relation to the questions outlined in section 2.3.

Contact Officer:- Joan Wilkins – Scrutiny Manager
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 284142
Email: joan.wilkins@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Manager entitled Scrutiny Investigation into 'Child Poverty' - Scoping Report' presented to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 18 September 2009

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

13 November 2009



Report of: Scrutiny Manager

Subject: 'CHILD POVERTY AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION' –
FEEDBACK FROM "HELPING COMMUNITIES DEAL
WITH DEBT: UNDERSTANDING MONEY AND
TACKLING CREDIT PROBLEMS" BRIEFING -
COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members that a feedback presentation will be given at today's meeting by the Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee following attendance at the "Helping Communities Deal With Debt: Understanding Money And Tackling Credit Problems" Briefing.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Committee on 9 October 2009, a request was made for funding to allow the Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee attend the "Helping Communities Deal With Debt: Understanding Money And Tackling Credit Problems" Briefing.
- 2.2 Given the intrinsic link between financial inclusion and child poverty, approval was obtained for attendance at this briefing as part of the Committees ongoing 'child poverty' investigation. The Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee subsequently attended the briefing on the 22 September 2009.
- 2.3 The Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee found the information and evidence provided during the course of the briefing highly informative. Details of this information will be fed back to Members at today's meeting for consideration, and further discussion, as part of the evidence gathering process for the 'child poverty' investigation.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Members note the content of the presentation, seeking clarification on any relevant issues from the Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, where felt appropriate.

Contact Officer:- Joan Wilkins – Scrutiny Manager
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
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Email: joan.wilkins@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Manager entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Child Poverty' - Scoping Report' presented to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 18 September 2009; and
- (ii) Report Of The Scrutiny Manager Entitled 'Request For Funding From The Dedicated Overview and Scrutiny Budget' Presented To The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee On 9 October 2009.

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

13 November 2009



Report of: Scrutiny Manager

Subject: CRIME AND DISORDER (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) REGULATIONS 2009 – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICE AND JUSTICE ACT 2006 (SECTIONS 19 AND 20) - COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members on the provisions of the Police and Justice Act 2006 and seek consideration of the process for implementation recent supplementary regulations relating to the scrutiny of crime and disorder matters.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will be aware that contained within the Police and Justice Act 2006 is a requirement for local authority scrutiny of crime and disorder matters. Section 19 of this Act required local authorities to have a Crime and Disorder Committee to review or scrutinise the decisions and actions of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) in England and Wales.
- 2.2 These provisions, however, did not come into effect until the 30th April 2009 with the introduction of the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009. A copy of these regulations is attached at **Appendix A** for Members attention.
- 2.3 Under these new arrangements every local authority is required to have in place a committee with power to review and scrutinise, and make reports or recommendations, regarding the functioning of the responsible authorities who comprise a CDRP or Community Safety Partnership.
- 2.4 It is at the discretion of each local authority, along with its partners, to decide on the best way to put procedures in place for these new scrutiny powers and there is no requirement for local authorities to alter existing scrutiny structures. There must, however, be a formal place where community safety matters can be discussed and as such consideration needs to be given how the crime and disorder role can be undertaken. Possible options being for a way forward being:-

- (i) The creation of a dedicated Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Forum;
 - (ii) Inclusion of the function within the remit of the main overview and scrutiny body (i.e. Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee); or
 - (iii) Inclusion of the function within an appropriate established Standing Scrutiny Forum.
- 2.5 Consideration also needs to be given to a number of other factors as part of the development of the process to deal with the implementation of these powers:-
- (i) Co-option of additional Members;
 - (ii) Requirements of the provision of information;
 - (iii) Attendance at meetings;
 - (iv) Reports and recommendations; and
 - (v) Consultation with partners.
- 2.6 In order to facilitate discussions on all of these issues, and identify a way forward, a presentation is to be given at today's meeting by the Scrutiny Manager.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That Members:-

- (i) Note the powers as set out in the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009; and
- (ii) Identify a way forward for the implementation of the requirements of the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.

Contact Officer:- Joan Wilkins – Scrutiny Manager
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (i) Police and Justice Act 2006 (www.opsi.gov.uk)
- (ii) The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 (www.opsi.gov.uk)
- (iii) Guidance for the Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Matters – England (www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/regions)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2009 No. 942

CRIMINAL LAW, ENGLAND AND WALES**The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny)
Regulations 2009***Made - - - - 6th April 2009**Laid before Parliament 8th April 2009**Coming into force in accordance with regulation 1(2)*

The Secretary of State makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by section 20(3) and (4) of the Police and Justice Act 2006(a).

In accordance with section 20(4) of that Act, the Secretary of State has consulted with the Welsh Ministers(b) regarding the provisions in relation to local authorities in Wales.

Citation and commencement

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.

(2) These Regulations shall come into force in respect of local authorities in England on 30th April 2009 and in respect of local authorities in Wales on 1st October 2009.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

“2006 Act” means the Police and Justice Act 2006;

“depersonalised information” means information which does not constitute personal data within the meaning of the Data Protection Act 1998(c).

Co-opting of additional members

3.—(1) The crime and disorder committee of a local authority may co-opt additional members to serve on the committee subject to paragraphs (2), (3), (4) and (5).

(2) A person co-opted to serve on a crime and disorder committee shall not be entitled to vote on any particular matter, unless the committee so determines.

-
- (a) 2006, c. 48. Section 20 has been amended by section 121 and has been prospectively amended by sections 126 and 241, and part 6 of Schedule 18 to the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (c. 28).
(b) The functions of the National Assembly for Wales were transferred to the Welsh Ministers by virtue of paragraph 30 of Schedule 11 to the Government of Wales Act 2006 (c.32).
(c) 2008 c.29.

(3) A co-opted person's membership may be limited to the exercise of the committee's powers in relation to a particular matter or type of matter.

(4) A crime and disorder committee shall only co-opt a person to serve on the committee who—

(a) is an employee, officer or member of a responsible authority or of a co-operating person or body; and

(b) is not a member of the executive of the committee's local authority (or authorities).

(5) The membership of a person co-opted to serve on a crime and disorder committee may be withdrawn at any time by the committee.

Frequency of meetings

4. A crime and disorder committee shall meet to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions as the committee considers appropriate but no less than once in every twelve month period.

Information

5.—(1) Where a crime and disorder committee makes a request in writing for information, as defined in section 20(6A) of the 2006 Act(a), to the responsible authorities or the co-operating persons or bodies, the authorities, or persons or bodies (as applicable) must provide such information in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) The information referred to in paragraph (1) must be provided no later than the date indicated in the request save that if some or all of the information cannot reasonably be provided on such date, that information must be provided as soon as reasonably possible.

(3) The information referred to in paragraph (1)—

(a) shall be depersonalised information, unless (subject to sub-paragraph (b)) the identification of an individual is necessary or appropriate in order to enable the crime and disorder committee to properly exercise its powers; and

(b) shall not include information that would be reasonably likely to prejudice legal proceedings or current or future operations of the responsible authorities, whether acting together or individually, or of the co-operating persons or bodies.

Attendance at committee meetings

6.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a crime and disorder committee may require the attendance before it of an officer or employee of a responsible authority or of a co-operating person or body in order to answer questions.

(2) The crime and disorder committee may not require a person to attend in accordance with paragraph (1) unless reasonable notice of the intended date of attendance has been given to that person.

Reports and recommendations

7. Where a crime and disorder committee makes a report or recommendations to a responsible authority or to a co-operating person or body in accordance with section 19(8)(b) of the 2006 Act, the responses to such report or recommendations of each relevant authority, body or person shall be—

(a) in writing; and

(a) Section 20(6A) was inserted by section 121(2) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (c. 28).

- (b) submitted to the crime and disorder committee within a period of 28 days from the date of the report or recommendations or, if this is not reasonably possible, as soon as reasonably possible thereafter.

Home Office
6th April 2009

Vernon Coaker
Minister of State

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations are made under section 20(3) (in respect of local authorities in England) and 20(4) (in respect of local authorities in Wales) of the Police and Justice Act 2006. The Regulations supplement the provisions in section 19 of that Act by making provision for the exercise of powers by crime and disorder committees of local authorities.

Regulation 3 provides that crime and disorder committees may co-opt additional members from those persons and bodies who are responsible authorities within the meaning of section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and from those persons and bodies with whom the responsible authorities have a duty to co-operate under section 5(2) of that Act (the “co-operating persons and bodies”) subject to the provisions set out in that regulation.

Regulation 4 provides that a crime and disorder committee shall meet to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions, no less than once in every twelve month period.

Regulation 5 provides that responsible authorities or co-operating persons or bodies must provide such information as is requested of them by the crime and disorder committee, subject to the provisions in that regulation.

Regulation 6 provides that a crime and disorder committee may require the attendance before it of a representative of a responsible authority or of a co-operating person or body in order to answer questions, subject to the provisions in that regulation.

Regulation 7 provides that where a crime and disorder committee makes a report or recommendations to responsible authorities or co-operating persons or bodies in accordance with section 19(8)(b) of the Police and Justice Act 2006, the responses to such report or recommendations of each relevant authority, body or person shall be in writing and within 28 days of the date of the report or recommendations or, if this is not reasonably possible, as soon as reasonably possible thereafter.

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‘Child Poverty’ – Setting The Scene

Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee
13 November 2009

Purpose

To inform Members of the SCC of the current facts surrounding child poverty in Hartlepool.

To show Members of the SCC a comparison of child poverty in Hartlepool against the region and the rest of the country.

To 'set the scene' with information that will enable a thorough investigation into child poverty.



Background Information

March 1999 - Government announced that it was committed to eradicating child poverty from a national baseline of 3.4 million children and young people who were living in poverty during this time.

Targets were set by the Government to cut child poverty by:

- A quarter by 2004/05,
- By half by 2010/11 and
- To eradicate child poverty by 2020.



Background Information (cont'd)

On 11 June 2009 the Child Poverty Bill 2008-09 was introduced to the House of Commons.

“Places a duty on local authorities and their partners to co-operate to tackle child poverty in their area, to carry out an assessment of the levels of child poverty in that area, and to prepare a joint local child poverty strategy”



Aim of the investigation

To explore and understand the key issues/ factors that lead to child poverty and evaluate the Council, and its partners', activities to reduce/ eradicate it.

Specifically:

To gain an understanding of legislation and targets relating to the reduction/ eradication of child poverty;

To gain an understanding of child poverty levels/ statistics in Hartlepool and how the local position compares to the regional and national picture;





Aim of the investigation (cont'd)

To explore the key issues/ factors that lead to child poverty and the ways in which the cycle can be broken;

To seek and compare good practice from another local authority in relation to the reduction/ eradication of child poverty;

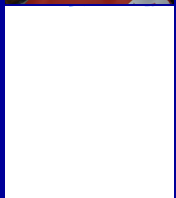
To consider/ evaluate the activities being undertaken by the Council, and its partners, to address the issue of child poverty in Hartlepool and suggest (where appropriate) possible changes / improvements.

The Child Poverty Bill

The Child Poverty Unit published the Child Poverty Bill in 2009 which will enshrine in legislation their aim to eradicate child poverty.

The Bill sets a framework of accountability at national and local level.

Royal Assent expected in early 2010.





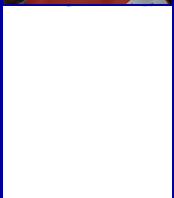
The Child Poverty Bill (cont'd)

The Bill defines a number of expectations at a strategic level. These include:

- (i) **Provide a definition of success** - a clear understanding of targets that must be met in order to eradicate child poverty.
- To reduce the proportion of children who live in relative low income to less than 10%.
- To reduce the proportion of families who live in material deprivation and have low income to less than 5%.
- To reduce the proportion of children that experience long periods of poverty.
- To reduce the number of children who live in absolute low income to less than 5%.

The Child Poverty Bill

- (ii) **Ensure targeted and sustained action is taken by everybody** - this includes the Government publishing a UK-wide child poverty strategy to be revised every three years until 2020.
- (iii) **Boost accountability of Government** - this includes Government publishing an annual progress report to Parliament that tracks progress towards targets as well as the establishment of an expert Commission.
- (iv) **Specific action by the Devolved Administrations** - this includes Scotland and Northern Ireland publishing their own strategies clearly setting out their intentions and actions.
- (v) **Action at a local level** - the duty on Local Authorities and their partners to prioritise and tackle child poverty in order to improve outcomes for disadvantaged children and their families. This includes conducting a needs assessment and producing a joint local child poverty strategy.



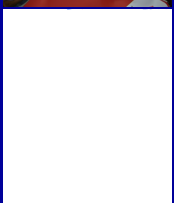


Targets Relating To Reducing Child Poverty

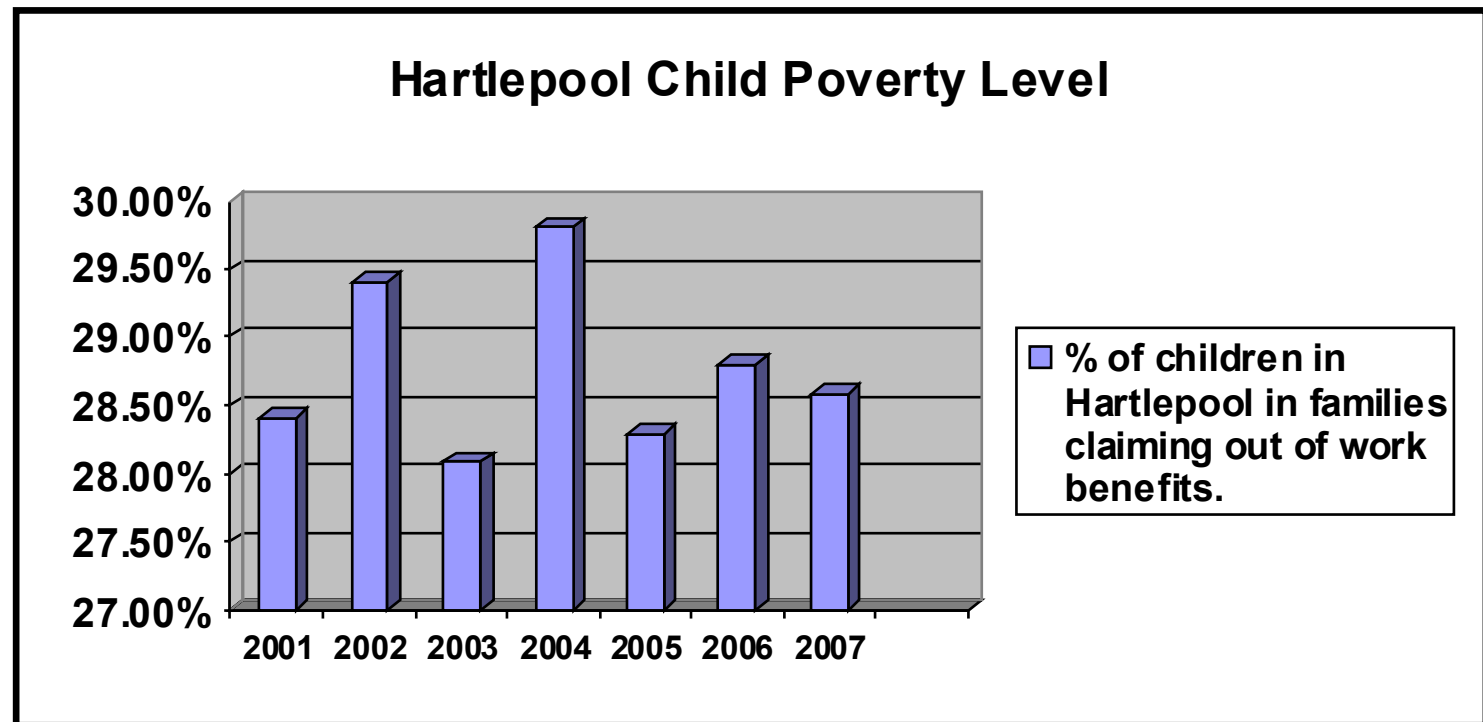
- Hartlepool Borough Council is one of only 45 LAs in the country to include NI116 as a priority target.
- The key objective is “reducing child poverty by helping families to improve their earning and ensuring they get extra assistance if their incomes fall short.”
- To reduce the number of children in families on out of work benefits to 4,298 (19.7%) by 2010/11.

Definition of Child Poverty

- **Absolute low income:** a level below which people lack the necessary food, clothing, or shelter to survive.
 - A single person is considered to be in poverty with an income of less than £145 per week.
 - Similarly, a couple with two children are classed as poor with an income of less than £332 per week
- **Hartlepool's definition** - The percentage of children in poverty as measured by children in families receiving key benefits
- There are **other definitions** – relative low income, material deprivation, index of child well being.



Child Poverty Levels



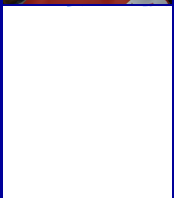
Child Poverty Levels (cont'd)

Below is the local, regional and national child poverty levels: -

	2001 (%)	2002 (%)	2003 (%)	2004 (%)	2005 (%)	2006 (%)	2007 (%)
Hartlepool	28.4	29.4	28.1	29.8	28.3	28.8	28.6
Middlesbrough	34.2	34.6	34.4	34.5	33.7	33.7	33.7
Redcar & Cleveland	25.1	25.6	24.4	26.8	25.7	24.1	25.5
Stockton	23.5	21.1	20.5	23.6	21.8	20.9	21.7
Darlington	21.9	19.5	20.9	21.1	19.8	21.1	19.7
Tees Valley	26.7	26	25.5	27.2	29.5	25.5	25.7
Great Britain	19.1	18.5	18.3	20.2	19.7	19.7	19.6

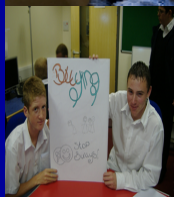
Child Poverty Levels (cont'd)

- 28.6% of children live in households where parents claim a benefit
- Unemployment in September 2009 stood at 7.1%
- The youth unemployment percentage rate has increased to 34.3%
- 16.7% of adults have no qualifications
- 18,900 (33.7%) of working age adults in Hartlepool are classed as workless
- 21.2% of working age adults on an out-of-work benefits



Child Poverty Levels (cont'd)

- 12.7% of adults claim an incapacity or other sickness related benefit in Hartlepool with the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund area rate being 18%
- People with limiting long-term illness is 24.4% compared to 18.2% nationally
- Income support is more than twice the national average in our NRF wards – 12.9% across the town and 19.9% in NRF wards.





Child Poverty Issues - how the cycle can be broken

Research has shown that there are a number of vulnerable groups most at risk of being in poverty.

- Families where one or more adults is/ are out of work
- Families where one or more adults work/s part time
- Ethnic minority families
- Families who have caring responsibilities - including those caring for the elderly and those with young children
- Lone parents.



Child Poverty Issues - how the cycle can be broken (cont'd)

A perpetual cycle of worklessness, low educational attainment, reduced prosperity

It is estimated that child poverty costs the UK almost £40 billion a year including:

- Reduced economic productivity (£13 billion)
- Increased crime (£13 billion)
- Increased likelihood of poor health (12 billion)

Research shows that children exposed to poverty, hardship and deprivation are most likely to suffer poverty in later life.

Activities currently being undertaken

Child Poverty Pledge, Strategy and Action Plan was made.

The draft child poverty strategy has a strong work focus.

Six key objectives:

- Ensure that children that live in poverty are safe

- Increase the parental employment rate

- Improve skills levels

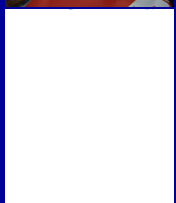
- Increase the benefit take up rate

- Prevent those at risk from falling into poverty

- Where it is evident that a family is experiencing poverty take action to mitigate its effect.

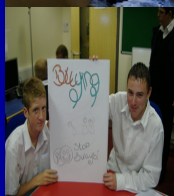


Activities currently being undertaken (cont'd)



- The resource level for Child Poverty is currently unquantifiable
- Requires a co-ordinated approach by all agencies
- Arguably, the best solution is to increase the level of family income by improving parental employment and increasing benefits
- Need to re-focus mainstream resources to 'bend' services' and actively seek external funding.

Where we are now



- A number of key partners have responded to the consultation and their comments are to be included in the next draft of the strategy
- In order to keep the momentum moving it was agreed that an interim officer led working group be established
- The first officer led meeting took place on Thursday 29th October 2009 and included the lead officer for each of the LSP themed groups
- The strategy and action plan are to be re-drafted to include consultation comments and to better reflect the requirements of The Child Poverty Bill.

Questions?



WESTMINSTER BRIEFING

“HELPING COMMUNITIES DEAL WITH DEBT: Understanding Money and Tackling Credit Problems”

Councillor M James
(Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating
Committee)



Relevant to the Committee's Child Poverty Investigation

‘A key factor in addressing the issue of
Child Poverty is
financial exclusion and the need to
provide families with the
skills to manage their money and
debt’



Areas covered by the Briefing

Work undertaken by:

- Knowsley MBC
- Association of British Credit Unions
- Birmingham Illegal Money Lending Team
- The Citizens Advice Bureau



Knowsley MBC

- Work undertaken by its:
 - The Financial Inclusion Forum, and
 - Financial Inclusion Advisory Group
- The Development of its Financial Inclusion Strategy.

The Strategy

Three directions to tackling financial exclusion:

- Prevention
- Intervention
- Sustainability



Association of British Credit Unions

- Credit Unions as part of the solution
- Services available
- Future Opportunities



Citizens Advice Bureau

Main audiences and topics:

- Lone Parents, Migrant workers, etc
- Budgeting, Debt management, Credit, Saving, etc

Areas of progress and potential:

- Partnership, reach and impact
- Coherence of the Money Agenda
- Financial Capability / Inclusion / Money Guidance



The Way Forward

- Emphasis on partnership working.
- Education (Financial and other in terms of raising aspirations).
- Raising awareness of the services / solutions available to relieve financial poverty.
- The need to reach families in need!

CRIME AND DISORDER (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) REGULATIONS 2009

Joan Wilkins , Scrutiny Manager



Summary of Presentation

Outline of Presentation content:-

- Summary of the extended powers to Scrutiny as per:
 - the Local Government Bill (Strong and Prosperous Communities) / Police and Justice Act 2006; and
 - the Police and Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009



A Wider and Stronger Role for Scrutiny: Key Elements of the Bill and Act

- Councillor Calls for Action (including all local government issues not just community safety)
- Holding the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to account (as per Police and Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009)



What the Regulations Require

- The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 requires:
 - The creation of a Committee to **review, scrutinise and make reports and recommendations** regarding the responsible authorities that comprise the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership



Role / Remit of the Committee

- To scrutinise:
 - Policy development; and
 - Performance management.
 - Contribute to the development of strategies
 - Hold the CDRP to account at formal meetings
- **Guidance states that the role of the Committee should be as a 'Critical Friend' providing constructive challenge at a strategic level****



Provisions within the Regulations

The Committee:

- Can co-opt additional Police Authority representatives to its membership
- Must meet at least once a year
- Can request information from, and require attendance by, responsible authorities
- Can make recommendations to a responsible authority and expect a written response within 28 days if reasonably possible



Implementing these Regulations in Hartlepool

****It is up to each Local Authority (and its partners) to decide the best way forward to put in place these powers and no requirement to change existing structures****

Options for the Creation of Crime and Disorder Committee

The Crime and Disorder Scrutiny role could be undertaken by either:

- A dedicated Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- The main Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Being assigned to an appropriate established Scrutiny Forum



Key Questions For Today

- Should the Crime and Disorder Committee function be incorporated within the existing Overview and Scrutiny structure?
- Should additional members be Co-opted on to the Committee?
- How often should the Committee meet?



Next stages

- Ascertain your views on the implementation of the Regulations
- Consultation with the responsible authorities
- Update the Constitutional accordingly