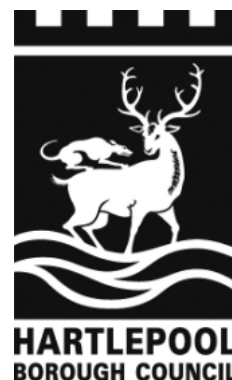


# **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA**



**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

**at 4.00 pm**

**in the Council Chamber,  
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

**MEMBERS: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM**

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

Resident Representatives: John Cambridge and Brenda Loynes

Also invited to attend:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond

Councillors Aiken, C Akers-Belcher, Allison, Atkinson, Brash, S Cook, Cranney, Fenwick, Fleet, Flintoff, Gibbon, Griffin, Hall, Hargreaves, Hill, Jackson, James, Laffey, Lauderdale, A E Lilley, G Lilley, London, A Marshall, McKenna, Dr Morris, Payne, Plant, Preece, Richardson, Shaw, Simmons, Sutheran, Thompson, Tumilty, Turner, Wallace, Wistow, Young

Resident Representatives: Christine Blakey, Ronald Breward, Liz Carroll, Bob Farrow, Mary Green, Ray Harriman, Ted Jackson, Jean Kennedy, Rose Kennedy, Evelyn Leck, Alan Lloyd, John Lynch, Brian McBean, Mary Power, Julie Rudge, Iris Ryder, Linda Shields, Bob Steel, Joan Steel, Sally Vokes and Maureen Waller.

**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 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010
- 3.2 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010 (*to follow*)

**4. RESPONSES FROM THE COUNCIL, THE EXECUTIVE OR COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL TO FINAL REPORTS OF THIS FORUM**

No items.

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

No items.

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

No items.

**7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

- 7.1 Scrutiny Investigation into the Possible Environmental Impacts of Dust Deposits on the Headland and Surrounding Areas - Scoping Report –  
*Scrutiny Support Officer*

**8. ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN**

**9. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**Date of next meeting –**

Monday, 1 March 2010, commencing at 4.00 p.m in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

# **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM**

## **MINUTES**

26 January 2010

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

### **Present:**

Councillor: Stephen Akers-Belcher (In the Chair)

Councillors: Caroline Barker, Gladys Worthy and Edna Wright

In accordance with Paragraph 4.2 (ii) of the Council Procedure Rules  
Councillor Jonathan Brash was in attendance as substitute for  
Councillor Trevor Rogan.

Resident Representatives: John Cambridge and Brenda Loynes.

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods  
Laura Starrs, Scrutiny Support Officer  
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **53. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Cook, Coward, Rogan and Councillor Jackson, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Neighbourhoods.

### **54. Declarations of interest by Members**

None.

### **55. Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2009**

Confirmed.

### **56. Responses from the Council, the Executive or Committees of the Council to Final Reports of this Forum**

No items.

## **57. Consideration of request for scrutiny reviews referred via Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee**

No items.

## **58. Neighbourhood Services: Budget and Policy Framework Consultation Proposals 2010/2011** (*Scrutiny Support Officer*)

The Scrutiny Support Officer advised that as part of the Budget and Policy Framework consultation proposals for 2010/2011, the Forum had the opportunity to consider the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department's pressures and priorities relating to the provision of neighbourhood services. The Forum's comments would be fed back to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to enable a response to be formulated and presented to Cabinet on 8 February 2010.

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods presented the report which included the Executive's budget proposals together with details of the pressures and priorities relating to the neighbourhood services areas of service provision within the Regeneration and Neighbourhood Services Department. Cabinet had recently agreed that the out of hours service be extended resulting in an additional budget pressure of £38,000 and this pressure would be considered by the Executive at its budget setting meeting.

In addition, and as part of the overall budget strategy, a cross departmental increased income target of £0.3m had been established. Proposals to achieve this target were provided as set out at Appendix C of the report.

In relation to the extension of the out of hours service, the Forum welcomed the decision of Cabinet to extend this service which would be appreciated by residents as noise problems were one of the main areas of complaints from the public. Members were of the view that this service should be recognised as a priority and that this budget pressure be supported. It was suggested that cards with contact telephone numbers for the out of hours service be provided to the public.

The implications of the demise of the NDC and the contribution towards the Neighbourhood Management/Policing and Community Safety Programme were discussed as well as the importance of supporting the community safety office, integrated neighbourhood managers and neighbourhood policing teams. Members were of the view that this programme should be supported and this was an issue which required further discussion.

A lengthy discussion ensued in relation to the highway maintenance programme, current road conditions and the number of pot holes as a result of the recent weather conditions. Concerns were expressed that the temporary patching work did not address the problem and there was a need for resurfacing on a number of roads in the town. In response to a query as to

whether there was provision in future budgets to address this, the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods advised that an element of funding had been achieved towards the maintenance of roads and current internal budgets were being examined to determine if any further funding could be identified. An update on the current Highway Maintenance Rolling Programme would be presented to a future meeting of the Forum.

### **Decision**

- (i) That the pressures, priorities and income generation proposals relating to the Neighbourhood Services areas of service provision within the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department be supported, as part of the Budget and Policy Framework consultation proposals for 2010/2011.
- (ii) That the comments made by the Forum as detailed above, be presented to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 29 January 2010

## **59. Suggested Proposals to Amend the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's Work Programme for the 2009/10 Municipal Year** *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The Scrutiny Support Officer sought the Forum's views on the suggested proposals to amend the Forum's work programme for this municipal year in order to carry out an investigation into the possible environmental impacts of dust deposits on the Headland.

The report included background information to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee's agreement that a further scrutiny investigation be carried out into the possible environmental impacts of dust deposits on the Headland by the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum.

In light of the current work programme being very challenging with the capacity of the Forum currently at its maximum, delivery of the current work programme along with an investigation into the possible environmental impacts of dust deposits on the Headland would not be achievable. In order for the Forum to carry out an investigation into dust deposits on the Headland, it was suggested that Members considered deferring the two outstanding work programme items relating to "Traffic Lights" and "Speed Humps" for consideration as part of the Forum's work programme for the 2010/11 Municipal year.

The Chair of the Health Scrutiny Forum who was in attendance at the meeting provided background information to the initial findings of the investigation carried out by the Health Scrutiny Forum.

Members commented on the benefits of undertaking the investigation on the environmental impacts of dust deposits on the Headland and the reasons as to why this investigation should take priority. The importance of examining the role of the Environment Agency in detail was emphasised.

The Chair referred to the sensitivity of this investigation and highlighted the importance of the Forum working together with all parties to achieve an effective outcome.

**Recommendation**

- (i) That the work programme for this municipal year be amended in order to carry out an investigation into the possible environmental impacts of dust deposits on the Headland.
- (ii) That the two outstanding work programme items relating to “Traffic Lights” and “Speed Humps” be deferred and considered as part of the Forum’s work programme for the next Municipal year 2010/11.

**60. Issues Identified from the Forward Plan**

No items.

**61. Date of Next Meeting**

It was reported that the next meeting would be held on Monday 1 February 2010 commencing at 4.00 pm in Committee Room B, Civic Centre.

The meeting concluded at 5.42. pm.

CHAIR

# **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM**

## **MINUTES**

1 February 2010

The meeting commenced at 4.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

### **Present:**

Councillor: Stephen Akers-Belcher (In the Chair)

Councillors: Rob W Cook, John Coward, Tim Fleming and Gladys Worthy.

Resident Representatives:

John Cambridge and Brenda Loynes

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Sylvia Tempest, Environmental Standards Officer

Paul Hurwood, Climate Change Officer

Laura Starrs, Scrutiny Support Officer

Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

Also in Attendance:

Leanne Wilson, Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit

Adrian Hilton, North East Climate Change Partnership

Simon Bowers, Friends of the Earth

Mike McNulty, Environment Agency

## **62. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Caroline Barker and Edna Wright.

## **63. Declarations of interest by Members**

None.

## **64. Minutes**

None.

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

None.

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

None.

**67. Consideration of progress reports/budget and policy framework documents**

None.

**68. Investigation into Climate Change and Carbon Management – Evidence from Key Stakeholders**  
(Scrutiny Support Officer)

The Scrutiny Support Officer introduced the representatives from key stakeholders who were in attendance to provide evidence to inform the investigation into Climate Change and Carbon Management. Members' attention was drawn to Appendix 2 which was written evidence provided by Tees and Durham Energy Advice Ltd.

The representative from the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit (TVJSU) provided a summary of the written evidence included within the agenda documentation and confirmed that the short term actions of the Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy were based on the Local Area Agreement (LAA) in place across the Tees Valley authorities. It also identified longer term actions that need to be examined further at a sub regional level. It was anticipated that the Strategy would be published in Spring 2010 following the formal approval process.

The Regional Climate Change (RCC) Co-ordinator from the North East Climate Change Partnership gave a detailed and comprehensive presentation which provided information on what was needed to be delivered to address climate change and how the North East Climate Change Partnership aimed to tackle this in collaboration with a number of organisations. Hartlepool Council was congratulated on the significant commitment in place already to address climate change including the provision of LAA indicators, signatory to Covenant of Mayors, engagement in the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme and being a member of the Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership.

A Member sought clarification on what the impact of climate change would be

in the north east of England and what challenges lie ahead. The RCC Co-ordinator confirmed that the future of climate change in north east England was predicted to include changing weather patterns and increased frequency of extreme events, particularly rainfall precipitation. He added that although temperatures were likely to increase between now and 2050, the extreme cold would be at sub zero, and this coupled with polarisation of rainfall precipitation would result in the likelihood of significant snowfall. This would compound the difficulties local authorities faced in relation to the provision of the gritting service etc and there would be some difficult judgement calls to be made.

The RCC Co-ordinator was asked that in view of the information available and the predictions made, what barriers if any, did he feel there were in relation to increasing public involvement. He responded that press coverage was an issue and in several cases unfair, however there were many people committed although there were some sectors more cynical than others in relation to the man made nature of climate change.

The representative from Friends of the Earth addressed Members and joined the RCC Co-ordinator in commending the work already done in Hartlepool through its approach to setting a reduction target and developing a strategy to reach that target. However, he questioned whether the Council was striving to reach the correct target. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) had recommended a target of 40% reduction on 1990 levels by 2020. However, Friends of the Earth felt that a reduction of 42% was scientifically robust. This had been reaffirmed through the launch of the Get Serious about CO2 campaign. It was noted that several cities in the UK had already committed to a 42% reduction by 2020.

However, the Friends of the Earth representative did indicate that to be able to deliver a 42% reduction, additional investment was required and a consultancy firm had been engaged by Friends of the Earth to examine best practice within local authorities across the UK and how this was financed.

Members were asked to note that Darlington Borough Council had undertaken some really good work in relation to sustainable transport and breaking the link between economic development and transport. In addition, Kirk Lees Council in West Yorkshire had made a significant investment in addressing climate change through a corporate policy, with the installing of energy efficiency measures in homes across the Borough.

The representative from Friends of the Earth commented that there was a lot of work local authorities could do in relation to encouraging renewable energy and creating a platform for renewable energy as a source of business and economic growth in the area. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods confirmed that as a local authority it was incumbent on us to reflect on the target and if it was viable to increase it, this would be looked at. He confirmed that the authorities in the Tees Valley were committed to examining the low carbon economy and carbon capture as identified within the Local Development Framework. Members were reminded that Hartlepool was one of the first authorities in the country in install volumetric housing at level 4

in the Easington Road area of the town and it was anticipated that level 5 would be achieved once the development was complete. However, one area of concern was the amount of influence the local authority has on schools and businesses and their commitment to carbon reduction.

Members were also reminded that the local authority had several successful initiatives already in place to help residents of the town insulate their homes. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods added that the local authority had a proven commitment to addressing climate change but was bound by the current stringent financial climate. The Chair added that in terms of financing, the increasing pressures faced by local authorities at this time was understandable and that central government should be pressed for additional resources to enable further initiatives to be delivered.

A representative from the Environment Agency (EA) was also in attendance and provided a detailed written submission for Members. The evidence looked at how the EA was meeting the challenges of Climate Change and Carbon Management both as a regulator and Government advisor. Members were asked to note that the EA was the lead on adapting climate change through:

- Flood Risk Management
- Coastal Realignment Strategy
- Managing Water Resources
- Biodiversity Conservation

The EA had also implemented a number of actions within its own organisation to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> by introducing energy efficiency measures in its buildings, improving the use of technology and buying lower emission vehicles for its fleet. A number of additional measures had been implemented including switching all the offices, depot and sites to green electricity tariffs which saved more than 17,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year. As a result of all the changes implemented, the EA had reduced its carbon footprint by 14%. The information presented included several suggestions to raise awareness of climate change in the community, in local schools and in the business and public sector.

A Member commented on the impact children had on addressing climate change as they were a strong voice within the home and could influence change with their parents and peers and in view of this, ways of working with schools and young people should be explored further. The representative from the EA added that from his experience, when asked to name and shame teachers in relation to their own impact on the environment, children were very keen to be involved.

All the representatives in attendance were thanked for their informative presentations and for answering Members' questions.

### Recommendation

That the information given, be noted and the comments of the Forum and evidence provided be used to assist with the scrutiny investigation

## **69. Investigation into Climate Change and Carbon Management – Evidence from the Council's Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department** (*Scrutiny Support Officer*)

The Scrutiny Support Officer introduced the representatives from the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department who were in attendance to provide evidence to inform the investigation into Climate Change and Carbon Management. In addition to this, written evidence had also been provided from officers from the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department from Middlesbrough Borough Council on cycling initiatives.

The Climate Change Officer gave a detailed and comprehensive presentation which looked at the importance of community engagement and highlighted the local community groups already involved. A number of events had been undertaken this year involving local school children, including assemblies and energy audits in schools, the Environmental Roundabout event and the 11 Million Take Over Day, a Smarter Living Roadshow and the Solar Car Event which was held on the Wingfield Castle at the Maritime Experience.

In addition to the above, the Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership was aiming to officially launch the Tees Valley Green Business Award (TVGBA) in the next few months and this was currently being promoted with businesses across the Tees Valley being encouraged to participate. A number of additional events/activities were planned including events within schools and Middleton Grange Shopping Centre.

Members welcomed the involvement of young people as it was felt that they were keen to raise awareness of climate change issues within the home environment. It was noted that identifying the most appropriate forums and groups to convey this message was a key issue and it was suggested that the support of the Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency would be invaluable in this regard. Members were referred to Appendix 1 which included details of Middlesbrough Council's Cycling Centre and it was suggested that this initiative could be potentially a great social enterprise for the future.

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods informed Members that in relation to sustainable transport, a commitment of £20k had been made by the local authority to install four charging points for electric cars across the town. A Member commented on the bicycle cages installed in the train station as it appeared that they did not seem to be used as it was not clear how to access them. It was suggested that this issue be looked at and improved, possibly

through additional signage, as part of the transport interchange development. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods acknowledged that this was an issue, as it was at Seaton Station and would look at the signage and advertisement of the facility.

### **Recommendation**

That the information given, be noted and the comments of the Forum and evidence provided be used to assist with the scrutiny investigation.

## **70. Investigation into Climate Change and Carbon Management – Feedback from the Climate Change Activity Session held on 6 November 2009** (*Scrutiny Support Officer*)

As part of the evidence gathering process for the undertaking of the investigation into Climate Change and Carbon Management, an activity session was held on 6 November 2009 as part of 11 Million Takeover Day. The Chair noted that the event was well attended by young children from primary schools across the town and demonstrated how well the authority engaged with local schools. It was noted that the delivery of the event was very well organised and it had proven to be a worthwhile exercise.

### **Recommendation**

That the feedback from the activity session be noted and used to assist with the scrutiny investigation.

## **71. Investigation into Climate Change and Carbon Management – Feedback from the Climate Change Focus Group held on 11 January 2010** (*Scrutiny Support Officer*)

As part of the evidence gathering process for the undertaking of the investigation into Climate Change and Carbon Management, a focus group session was held on 11 January 2010 in the Civic Centre. The Chair informed the Forum that it was a very interesting session with a good flow of worthwhile information although he was disappointed at the level of attendance of both the public and elected Members. The importance of encouraging public involvement was reiterated.

### **Recommendation**

That the feedback from the focus group be noted and used to assist with the scrutiny investigation.

## **72. Six Monthly Monitoring of Agreed Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's Recommendations** *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

Details of progress made on the delivery of the agreed scrutiny recommendations against investigations undertaken by the Forum since the 2005/06 municipal year were presented to Members. A summary report, attached at Appendix A, provided a break down on progress made by investigation and Appendix B provided a detailed explanation of progress made against each recommendation that was either expected to achieve target or not expected to achieve target.

It was noted that since the 2005/06 municipal year, 87.9% of the Forum's recommendations had been achieved with 11% expected to be achieved.

### **Recommendation**

That progress against the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's agreed recommendations since the 2005/06 municipal year and the comments of the Forum be noted.

## **73. Any Other Business – Conference on Climate Change and Carbon Management**

Members were informed that a conference on Climate Change and Carbon Management was being facilitated by the Covenant of Mayors on 11 February 2010 at Chester Le Street Cricket Club. Any Members were very welcome to attend and were asked to let the Scrutiny Support Officer know at their earliest convenience should they wish to attend.

### **Recommendation**

Members to inform the Scrutiny Support Officer should they wish to attend the above conference on 11 February 2010.

## **74. Any Other Business – Evidence gathering**

Members were reminded that this meeting was the last evidence gathering session as part of the scrutiny investigation into Climate Change and Carbon Management. Members were requested to inform the Scrutiny Support Officer should they wish any other issues to be examined before the final report was drafted.

**Recommendation**

Members were requested to inform the Scrutiny Support Officer should they wish any other issues to be examined before the final report from this investigation was drafted.

**75. Any Other Business – National Association of Councillors**

The Chair informed Members that at a recent meeting of the National Association Councillors, the hard work and commitment of Hartlepool Council was apparent in view of how far ahead the Council was compared to some other local authorities. The Association was very impressed with the work undertaken in Hartlepool and thanks were passed on to everyone involved in the process. One key area that was discussed at the meeting was the issue of carbon emissions from local authority buildings and it was hoped that this area would be addressed in Hartlepool through business transformation. The issue of transport had been discussed and it was felt generally that the transport systems in place in the north east did not always inspire people to use the bus or train. It was suggested that Central Government be lobbied to look at this issue again.

There were some alarming statistics presented at the meeting in relation to the difficulties faced by schools in terms of budgets and cultures and the fact that a lot of schools were very in old buildings. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods confirmed that a lot of these issues would be addressed through the Building Schools for the Future and Primary Capital programmes. Members were informed that the Director was due to meet with Heads of schools next week to discuss carbon reduction and the material benefits to be gained from this, including reduced heating costs.

**Recommendation**

Members noted the information provided.

The meeting concluded at 5.26 pm.

CHAIRMAN

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM**

15 February 2010



**Report of:** Scrutiny Support Officer

**Subject:** SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO THE POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF DUST DEPOSITS ON THE HEADLAND AND SURROUNDING AREAS – SCOPING REPORT

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To make proposals to Members of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum for their forthcoming investigation into the 'Possible Environmental Impacts of Dust Deposits on the Headland and Surrounding Areas'.

### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Health Scrutiny Forum recently carried out an investigation into 'Dust Deposits on the Headland' in response to serious concerns from residents on the Headland and surrounding areas to the health implications of dust deposits. Members of the Health Scrutiny Forum met formally on 27 October 2009 to receive evidence relating to the health implications of dust deposits on the Headland and surrounding areas.
- 2.2 Following its investigation into the health implications of dust deposits on the Headland and surrounding areas the Health Scrutiny Forum presented its Final Report to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 11 December 2009. The recommendations in the Final Report were accepted by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.
- 2.3 At this meeting of 11 December 2009, the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee recommended that:-
- (a) the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum:-
- (i) undertake a site visit to the Port area to observe the loading of scrap metal onto a ship; and

- (ii) examine the potential damage to properties, the environment, noise and any possible statutory nuisance of Port activities.
- (b) the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder(s):-
  - (i) consult with the Port workforce and explore the possible options in terms of enforcement, ensuring that any operational deficiencies on the Port site are not repeated; and
  - (iii) explore the role of the Environment Agency as the legally responsible body for the regulation of the operating permit of activities in the Port.

### **3. OVERALL AIM OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION/ENQUIRY**

- 3.1 To examine the potential damage to properties, the environment, noise and any possible statutory nuisance of Port activities.

### **4. PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION**

- 4.1 The following Terms of Reference for the investigation are proposed:-
  - (a) To gain an understanding of the activity roles and professional responsibilities of the Council and Environment Agency in relation to the licensing and enforcement of Port activities;
  - (b) To explore the roles and responsibilities of PD Ports, Van Dalen Metals Recycling and Trading and Heerema Fabrication in relation to how they operate to ensure that their activities have minimal environmental impact;
  - (c) To examine the potential damage that port activities may have on:-
    - (i) properties on the Headland and surrounding areas; and
    - (ii) the environment
  - (d) To explore the concerns of residents in relation to the potential damage that port activities may have on properties on the Headland and surrounding areas and the potential damage to the environment;
  - (e) To assess the impact of the potential noise pollution from Port activities to establish whether it contributes to a statutory nuisance; and
  - (f) To undertake site visits to the Port area and Town Wall to observe the loading / unloading of ships.

## **5. POTENTIAL AREAS OF ENQUIRY / SOURCES OF EVIDENCE**

- 5.1 Members of the Forum can request a range of evidential and comparative information throughout the Scrutiny review.
- 5.2 The Forum can invite a variety of people to attend to assist in the forming of a balanced and focused range of recommendations as follows:-
- (a) Cabinet Member with Portfolio Holder for Transport and Neighbourhoods;
  - (b) Cabinet Member with Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development;
  - (c) Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods;
  - (d) Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Officers;
  - (e) Ward Councillors;
  - (f) Resident Representatives;
  - (g) Environment Agency;
  - (h) Port Authority, PD Ports;
  - (h) Van Dalen Metals Recycling and Trading;
  - (i) Heerema Fabrication;
  - (j) Headland Parish Council;
  - (k) Local residents

## **6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY**

- 6.1 Community engagement plays a crucial role in the Scrutiny process and paragraph 5.2, details who the Forum could involve. However, thought will need to be given to the structure in the way that the Forum wishes to encourage those views.
- 6.2 In addition, diversity issues have been considered in the background research for this enquiry under the Equality Standards for Local Government. As such the views of local diversity groups will be sought throughout the inquiry where felt appropriate and time allows. Consequently, consideration has been given as to how the views of people from minority communities of interest or heritage (for example, people with disabilities, people with learning disabilities, people with mental health problems, black and minority ethnic people, and

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people), which may not be gathered through the usual community engagement routes, can be included over the course of the inquiry.

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

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

## **8. PROPOSED TIMETABLE OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION**

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

**15 February 2010** – Consideration of the Scoping Report by the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum

**w/c 15 February 2010 and w/c 22 February 2010** - pre-arranged site visit to the Port and unannounced visits to the Town Wall to observe the loading / unloading of ships

**w/c 22 February 2010** – Focus Group to gather views from residents to feed into the meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010

**1 March 2010** – Formal meeting of the Forum to receive:-

- (i) Evidence from the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department in relation to:-
  - (a) the Council's roles, responsibilities and regulatory powers;
  - (b) licensing and the enforcement of operational deficiencies;
  - (c) noise pollution and statutory nuisance; and
  - (d) economic background
- (ii) Evidence from the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Neighbourhoods and the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development;
- (iii) Evidence from the Environment Agency in relation to:-
  - (a) the Agencies roles, responsibilities and regulatory powers; and
  - (b) operating permits and enforcement of operational deficiencies
- (iv) Evidence from:-
  - (a) the Port Authority, PD Ports;
  - (b) Van Dalen Metals Recycling and Trading; and
  - (c) Heerema Fabrication

in relation to how the companies operate to ensure that their activities have minimal environmental impact
- (v) Feedback from focus group and site visits; and views from residents

**16 March 2010** - Consideration of Draft Final Report by the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum

**23 April 2010** – Consideration of Final Report by Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

**TBC** – Consideration of Final Report by the Cabinet

## 9. RECOMMENDATION

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

**Contact Officer:** - Laura Starrs – Scrutiny Support Officer  
Chief Executives Department – Corporate Strategy  
Hartlepool Borough Council  
Tel: - 01429 523087  
Email:- laura.starrs@hartlepool.gov.uk

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (i) Report of the Health Scrutiny Forum entitled 'Interim Report – Dust Deposits on the Headland' presented to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 11 December 2009; and
- (ii) Minutes of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee of 11 December 2009.

## APPENDIX A

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

<b>Title of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:</b>
<b>Title of the current scrutiny investigation for which funding is requested:</b>
<b>To clearly identify the purpose for which additional support is required:</b>
<b>To outline indicative costs to be incurred as a result of the additional support:</b>
<b>To outline any associated timescale implications:</b>
<b>To outline the 'added value' that may be achieved by utilising the additional support as part of the undertaking of the Scrutiny Investigation:</b>
<b>To outline any requirements / processes to be adhered to in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules / Standing Orders:</b>

<b>To outline the possible disadvantages of not utilising the additional support during the undertaking of the Scrutiny Investigation:</b>
<b>To outline any possible alternative means of additional support outside of this proposal:</b>