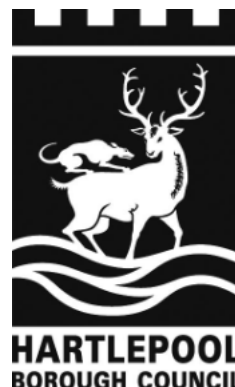


CABINET AGENDA



Tuesday, 20 April 2010

at 9.00 am

in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: CABINET:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond

Councillors Hall, Hargreaves, Hill, Jackson, Payne, and Tumilty.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 To receive the Record of Decision in respect of the meeting held on 6 April 2010 (previously circulated)
- 3.2 To receive the Record of Decision in respect of the meeting of the Emergency Planning Joint Committee of 16 December 2009

4. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

No items

5. KEY DECISIONS

No items

6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 6.1 Hartlepool Central Area Supplementary Planning Document – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*
- 6.2 Child Poverty Strategy, Action Plan & Pledge – *Director of Child and Adult Services*

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / INFORMATION

- 7.1 Personal Care At Home Bill – *Director of Child and Adult Services*

8. REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY FORUMS

- 8.1 Final Report – Car Parking on Estates in Hartlepool – *Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum*
- 8.2 Action Plan – Car Parking on Estates in Hartlepool – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*

EXEMPT ITEMS

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

9. EXEMPT KEY DECISIONS

- 9.1 Proposed Transfer of Red Book Employees (Craft Workers) to Green Book Conditions of Service (para 4) – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods and Chief Customer and Workforce Services Officer*

EMERGENCY PLANNING JOINT COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

16 December 2009

The meeting commenced at 12 noon at Cleveland Police Headquarters,
Ladgate Lane, Middlesbrough

Present:

Councillor Barry Coppinger(In the Chair)

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond
Councillors Terry Laing and Dave McLuckie

Denis Hampson, Chief Emergency Planning Officer & LRF Manager
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

23. Apologies for Absence

None.

24. Declarations of Interest

None.

25. Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 September 2009

Confirmed.

Matters Arising

Members asked for an update on the relocation of the Emergency Planning Unit (EPU) and were informed that negotiations were currently taking place with a view to moving to Aurora Court, Middlesbrough before 31 March 2010.

26. Duty to Assess Risk (Expectations and Indicators of Good Practice) – Chief Emergency Planning Officer

Purpose of Report

To inform Members how the Emergency Planning Unit, particularly through the Local Resilience Forum, would use the new Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) Expectations and Indicators of Good Practice document to monitor and validate the work that the EPU performs to show how the Local Authorities meet their statutory duties under the Civil Contingencies Act.

Issues for Consideration

Members of the EPU had begun the evidence gathering process to fulfil the requirements set out in the indicators and would be used for assessments that would be used in the future by regulatory bodies. It would also be used by the EPU as a tool to self assess the activities of the unit and Local Authorities. Central Government would use that information to clarify if Local Authorities were meeting their responsibilities and duties under the CCA and the Resilience Capabilities programme.

Once sections of the assessments were complete, they would be brought to the Committee for information. Although the duty to assess risk was led by the EPU it was conducted on a multi agency basis which stopped unnecessary duplication of effort by other responder agencies. Work thus far indicated that there was ample evidence that the Local Authorities through the work performed by the EPU on their behalf was meeting the expectations of the CCA in respect of their duty to assess risk (Part A of the Expectations and Indicators of Good Practice).

Members queried whether there were any areas of concern and were informed that the evidence highlighted that the multi-agency approach of the Local Resilience Forum ensured that any risks could be identified and measures put into place to counteract risks including training of identified staff.

Decision

Members endorsed the evidence provided

Members endorsed that the evidence demonstrated that the indicators were being adequately met.

27. Expectations and Indicators of Good Practice – Functional Work Stream – Animal and Plant Disease – Chief Emergency Planning Officer

Purpose of Report

To inform Members how the EPU on behalf of the four Local Authorities was meeting the functional work stream requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act Expectations and Indicators of Good Practice document in relation to Animal and Plant Diseases.

Issues for Consideration

The report provided evidence of how the EPU and Local Authorities had met the requirements of the functional workstream in respect of Animal and Plant Diseases of the Expectations and Indicators of Good Practice document. However the Chief Emergency Planning Officer reminded Members that the prime responders were external partners such as the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the State Veterinary Service but the EPU plans would dovetail into those of the other agencies.

Decision

Members endorsed the evidence produced.

Members endorsed that the evidence demonstrated that the indicator was being adequately met.

28. Pitt Review – Progress Report – Chief Emergency Planning Officer

Purpose of Report

To provide an update to the Emergency Planning Joint Committee on progress being made against the recommendations from Sir Michael Pitt's report into the floods of Summer 2007.

To inform Members that on 21 September 2009 the Cabinet Office and DEFRA wrote to all Local Authority Chief Executives and Chairs of Local Resilience Forums (LRF) asking that they provide an update on progress towards implementing the recommendations which were targeted at them.

To inform Members that much of the work involving the recommendations placed upon the Cleveland LRF had been carried out by the EPU together with some of the work which overlapped into the recommendations placed on Local Authorities.

To inform Members that the Chief Emergency Planning Officer had provided a response to the Cabinet Officer letter on behalf of Cleveland in respect of recommendations for the LRF and those relating to emergency resilience planning. The Local Authorities provided separate responses. The EPU had been provided with the Cabinet Office response to Ministers which had highlighted a number of points from the Cleveland response which were shown in the draft national progress report and highlighted as good practice.

Issues for Consideration

The report highlighted a number of recommendations from the Pitt Report for the Local Resilience Forums, Local Authorities and Emergency Services and what work had taken place to complete the outstanding actions. Work was on target to complete the outstanding actions by 31 March 2010. Some of the recommendations were out of the remit of the EPU, for instance the surface water drainage plan was the responsibility of the Local Authority Engineers.

One of the recommendations related to a 'door knocking' exercise to alert residents of imminent flooding but this had proved impractical in other areas and so other ways would be considered e.g. the utilisation of the police helicopter.

Category 2 responders had been written to seeking clarification as to what Business Continuity Management plans were in place, however responses had not been forthcoming. Members asked that a report be brought to the next meeting outlining progress on this.

Members referred to the recent flooding in West Cumbria and asked whether there had been any information as to how the emergency services/environment agency had coped. The Chief Emergency Planning Officer said that the Environment Agency had compiled an initial report but it was too soon to contain any analysis. There was however, a report from Northumberland in relation to flooding last year in Rothbury and Morpeth which he would bring to the next meeting for information for the Committee.

The current Cleveland adverse weather protocol had been circulated to members and this had been invoked twice during November 2009. The Chief Emergency Planning Officer acknowledged that previous planning had revolved around rivers, streams and becks but there was now a need for planning around surface water. However the emergency flood protocol appeared to be working well with a close partnership with the Environment Agency.

A Member referred to the possibility of a tidal surge and was informed that there were arrangements in place, but the current flood defences could be overtopped and so evacuation could be required from the affected areas.

A Member commented on the strain put on drainage systems due to increasingly frequent heavy rainfall. The Chief Emergency Planning Officer referred to the Water Resources Act which was due in the early part of 2010 which would place responsibilities on Local Authorities to have effective surface water management plans, drainage and sewage systems.

Decision

Members noted the good progress against the recommendations in the Pitt Review

Members noted the action plan 'Appendix A' to the report and the work being undertaken to achieve the outstanding recommendations.

Members noted the provisions of the Cleveland Adverse Weather Protocol.

29. Planning for Infectious Diseases – Chief Emergency Planning Officer

Purpose of Report

To inform Members of the Emergency Planning Joint Committee of plans and procedures in place for dealing with an infectious disease outbreak.

To inform Members that the report had been compiled in conjunction with the Emergency Planning Manager of the Tees Primary Care Trusts and highlighted the sharing of information and co-operation between the Cleveland EPU and the Health Community.

Issues for Consideration

The report gave background information in relation to the ongoing flu pandemic which was coming to the end of the second wave. Details of anti-viral distribution was outlined. The report also contained details of the mass vaccination plan which was not solely confined to swine flu. This had been produced by the Primary Care Trust (PCT) but had had co-operation from a number of other agencies including Local Authority Children's and Adults' Departments.

A Member thanked the Chief Emergency Planning Officer for the updates received in relation to swine flu. It was clarified that weather and flood updates were obtained from the Regional Meteorological Office.

Decision

Members noted the report and ongoing work to prepare Cleveland for

an infectious disease outbreak

Members noted the involvement of the EPU and Adult and Children's Services departments in much of this planning and preparation.

30. Reported Incidents/Cleveland Communications Strategy – Chief Emergency Planning Officer

Purpose of Report

To inform Members of the Emergency Planning Joint Committee of the incidents reported, severe weather and flood risk warnings received and communications strategy faxes received and dealt with by the Cleveland Emergency Planning unit. The report covered the period between 1 September and 30 November 2009.

Issues for Consideration

There had been a total of 34 warnings relating to adverse weather conditions during this period. In relation to the Communications Strategy, 38 blue faxes had been received and dealt with. An appendix to the report detailed a number of incidents which had affected the general public.

Decision

Members noted the report.

The meeting concluded at 1.10 pm.

CHAIRMAN

CABINET REPORT

20th April 2010



Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: HARTLEPOOL CENTRAL AREA SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

Cabinet is asked to support the principle of using the findings from the Central Area Investment Framework to inform the production of a Central Area Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Through incorporating the proposals in an SPD they will become part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) and will be a material consideration in any planning decisions.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The aim of the Central Area SPD is to produce a strategic approach to the future development of the Central Area within Hartlepool. This report explains how it fits within the Local Development Framework, what the strategy is seeking to achieve and identifies the positive impacts it could have within Hartlepool, including the potential of the SPD to help draw down funding towards schemes contained within the strategy.

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

The Hartlepool Central Area SPD is a strategic document within the Local Development Framework, which is part of the budget and policy framework

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non Key

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Cabinet meeting on the 20th April 2009.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Cabinet is recommended to approve the preparation of the Central Area Supplementary Planning Document.

Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: HARTLEPOOL CENTRAL AREA SUPPLEMENTARY
PLANNING DOCUMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Cabinet is asked to support the principle of using the findings from the Central Area Investment Framework to inform the production of a Central Area Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Through incorporating the proposals in an SPD they will become part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) and will be a material consideration in any planning decisions.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In September 2007 the Council secured Single Programme funding to prepare a regeneration framework for the Central Area of Hartlepool using Hartlepool Borough Council match funding. Consultants (Genecon) were appointed to undertake the Central Area Investment Framework (CAIF). Details of the Central Area Investment Framework were reported to Cabinet in December 2008. The key aspects are summarised below.
- 2.2 The Central Area Investment Framework was developed in order to respond to One NorthEast's increasing emphasis on prioritising resources towards strategic investment opportunities which increase private sector investment opportunities, job creation, and GVA (income generated by economic activity).
- 2.3 The Central Area Investment Framework provides the strategic economic regeneration justification for investment in Central Hartlepool and lists specific proposals that will form the basis for funding bids. The proposals are designed to complement and add value to existing investment proposals, particularly the £51m redevelopment of Hartlepool College of Further Education, Cleveland College of Art and Design's expansion plans, the new Hartlepool Transport Interchange, the PCT LIFT Scheme and Jomast's proposals for Trincomalee Wharf.
- 2.4 The strategy provides recommendations to address key problems/barriers including the poor connectivity between the Town Centre, Marina, the unoccupied building at Jacksons Landing and the inefficient use of space including derelict/untidy buildings within the East Central Area (between Stockton Street, Mainsforth Terrace, Hucklehoven Way and Church Street). An Action Plan has been prepared that details a number of projects to

- stimulate market/investor confidence and provide estimated costs which can be used as the basis for the preparation of funding bids.
- 2.5 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.
 - 2.6 The aim of the Innovation and Skills Quarter (ISQ) is to create a distinct new employment and enterprise zone immediately adjacent to the town centre, exhibiting the type of environment attractive to private sector investment which will link strongly and effectively with surrounding area's of economic activity, including Church Street, the Marina, Middleton Grange Shopping Centre and Hartlepool College of Further Education.
 - 2.7 Building upon the success of incubation/small business units across the town, this area would provide an excellent opportunity to promote high quality small and new business accommodation, and integrate with the knowledge based/cultural activities of both Colleges.
 - 2.8 The Central Area Investment Framework (CAIF) has been developed to support the growth of priority sectors and to capitalise on the town's asset base. In terms of Economic and Property market drivers the study contains the following key objective and sets out a number of key challenges in terms of the central area:

Overriding objective

"Diversify and enhance the Central Area's economic base by attracting and retaining a range of 'higher value' employers which will generate sustainable employment opportunities for local people. This would contribute towards improving sub-regional and regional GVA (a measure of economic growth) levels, and will also encourage the formation and growth of small businesses indigenous to this town."

Key challenges

- capitalise on planned and potential investment in new education facilities to help enhance and diversify the local skills base;
- target small businesses/SMEs and growing the indigenous business base through provision of appropriate office premises and business infrastructure and support provision;
- develop key sectoral strengths, in particular the visitor economy, by reinforcing the existing asset base and enhancing service provision (The Marina; Retail; and Leisure/hotel uses) and Town Centre indoor shopping improvements;
- generate private sector development activity through enabling investment in key sites and the utilisation of the public sector asset base;

- 2.9 In terms of design and access the CAIF sets out the following key objective and challenges:

Overriding objective

“create an attractive and integrated Central Area which will improve the experience for all users and assist in attracting businesses and visitors to support the development of a diverse and sustainable economy.”

Key challenges

- focus regeneration initiatives around the Church Street/Surtees Area by reconnecting and revitalising the historic core and developing the existing urban grain and high quality public realm to create a new niche quarter within the Central Area;
- ensure ongoing development activity including the FE College; Cleveland College of Art and Design; the Transport interchange and Trincomalee Wharf; is embedded and fully integrated within the wider Central Area;
- enhance pedestrian linkages across the Central Area including addressing key severance issues generated by Stockton Street and the railway line. Connectivity across the Central Area needs to be improved and particular focus should be given to better integrating the Marina with adjoining areas;
- prioritise the development of key gateway sites to enhance the visibility and image of the Central Area and help to create a sense of place; and
- explore a range of potential transport/access initiatives relating to non-pedestrian movements focused on cycle routes, public transport and Central Area parking provision.

- 2.10 From developing an understanding of the aforementioned key issues the study has developed a number of immediate priorities along with medium and longer term priorities, these include:

Immediate priorities will aim to:-

- develop a campus environment which will support the expansion of Cleveland College of Art and Design (CCAD) and Hartlepool College of Further Education (HCFE) creating jobs and new higher education facilities;
- improve key linkages between the main shopping centre, Innovation and Skills Quarter (ISQ), transport interchange and marina to improve the operational efficiency of the central area, improve liveability and attract employment;
- develop a new innovation connectors on the Crown House site with a focus on creative and digital business development. This scheme will link closely with the objectives of the two colleges and tie in with the Council's town wide incubation strategy; and
- strategic acquisitions – within the ISQ are a number of site and properties which contribute significantly to the areas underperformance and offer opportunities for refurbishment/re-

development to create new high quality floorspace, provide for niche industries or for other town centre uses.

- 2.11 Medium term priorities will seek to secure a mixed-use development on the 2.2 hectare Council owned depot site and adjacent land which overlooks the eastern access to the marina and will be encouraged by earlier 'place-shaping' improvements. The current use is considered to be inappropriate for the town centre and is not compatible with creating a new high quality mixed use environment such as that which is envisaged for the area. The redevelopment of the site would play a key role in strengthening the connection between Church Street (and the wider town centre area) and the Marina/Hartlepool Maritime Experience, together with creating a major redevelopment opportunity for target uses.
- 2.12 Beyond the ISQ, investment will focus on the Mill House area where remodelling and redevelopment will seek to create new sport and recreation facilities which will complement activities around the adjacent Hartlepool United football club.
- 2.13 It was envisaged that this Strategy would support the development of the Local Development Framework. Now that the study is complete the most logical way of incorporating it into the LDF is to go through the process of creating a Supplementary Planning Document. This will include updating the document where necessary, formatting it into the style of LDF documents, carrying out an 8 week public consultation.

3 WHY DO WE NEED A CENTRAL AREA SPD FOR HARTLEPOOL?

- 3.1 This document is seen as a strategic level document which will improve the awareness of the key issues within the central area and sets an aspirational vision for its future development. Having a strategic regeneration plan with SPD status will strengthen the planning framework allowing development to take place in a more coordinated fashion. It will also support the delivery of schemes by providing greater certainty to existing businesses and potential investors.
- 3.2 Additionally, providing a Supplementary Planning Document as part of the Local Development Framework, which identifies opportunities and uses for sites, gives the Council more strength in promoting bids for funding such as Single Programme, lottery funding and also securing benefits through Section 106 Agreements. It will also provide guidance to the Council in terms of its own strategic investment strategy, allowing resources to be used alongside external funds in order to maximise impact.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve the preparation of the Central Area Supplementary Planning Document.

CONTACT OFFICER

Matthew King
Principal Planning Officer
Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department
Bryan Hanson House
Hanson Square
Hartlepool
TS24 7BT

CABINET REPORT

20 April 2010



Report of: Director of Child & Adult Services

Subject: CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY, ACTION PLAN & PLEDGE

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report on progress in the development of a town wide child poverty strategy, action plan and pledge.
- 1.2 To seek approval for a model of governance, pending final statutory guidance on new local authority duties arising from the Child Poverty Act 2010 which received Royal Assent on 25 March 2010.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

- 2.1 Hartlepool has included the reduction of the proportion of children in child poverty as an improvement target within its local area agreement for 2008/11, demonstrating the support of both the local authority and the Local Strategic Partnership in improving outcomes for children and families in Hartlepool. Council underlined its support for tackling child poverty at its meeting of 25th February 2010 when it supported a proposal to extend the local area agreement target by an additional 0.5%.
- 2.2 A substantive draft strategy and a working action plan have been prepared and recently re-drafted in line with current information available in relation to the Child Poverty Act 2010. The draft strategy and action plan are attached.
- 2.3 In order to drive forward the strategy and action plan, governance arrangements now need to be formalised in line with the requirements of the Child Poverty Act 2010 and options for governance are proposed.

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

Child Poverty is a cross cutting issue and to tackle it contributions are required from across the Council and other partners.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non-key

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Cabinet 20 April 2010.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

6.1 To endorse the Child Poverty Strategy, Action Plan and Pledge.

6.2 To approve a model of governance, pending final statutory guidance, for taking forward new local authority duties arising from the Child Poverty Act 2010.

Report of: Director of Child & Adult Services

Subject: CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY, ACTION PLAN & PLEDGE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report on progress in the development of a town wide child poverty strategy, action plan and pledge.
- 1.2 To seek approval for a model of governance to fulfil the role of the Child Poverty Partnership and establish an appropriate working group to carry work forward, pending any further guidance on new local authority duties arising from the Child Poverty Act 2010.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Government has expressed its intention to reduce child poverty and to eradicate it nationally by 2020. Hartlepool has included the reduction of the proportion of children in child poverty as an improvement target within its local area agreement for 2008/11, demonstrating the support of both the local authority and the Local Strategic Partnership in improving outcomes for children and families in Hartlepool. Council underlined its support for tackling child poverty at its meeting of 25 February 2010 when it supported a proposal to extend the local area agreement target by an additional 0.5%.
- 2.2 On 24th March 2009, Cabinet approved the preparation of a town wide child poverty strategy, action plan and pledge. It was suggested that representatives from Economic Development and the Children's Services Department (now Child and Adult Services Department) would carry this work forward in consultation with key partners. Furthermore, it was anticipated that the Government would be bringing forward legislation on child poverty and that new duties would fall on local authorities as a result.

3. ACTIVITY TO ADDRESS CHILD POVERTY IN HARTLEPOOL

- 3.1 As suggested in the Cabinet report of 24 March 2009, work has gone ahead led by officers from Economic Development and Child and Adult Services. Presentations were given to the individual themed partnerships of the Local Strategic Partnership and initial drafts of the child poverty strategy, action plan and pledge were circulated for comment during the summer with a closing date for consultation on the draft strategy of 30 September 2009. Comments were requested from the Local Strategic Partnership themed groups together with colleagues from the private, voluntary and independent sectors.

- 3.2 Following the closure of the consultation period a child poverty working group was convened on an ad hoc basis to work on refining the strategy and action plan and explore collaborative ways of tackling child poverty. The first meeting took place on 29 October 2009. In addition to reviewing the consultation comments received, it was felt that this group could ensure that a redrafted strategy included the necessary information likely to be required in order to comply with the Child Poverty Bill (now the Child Poverty Act 2010) which was expected to complete its progress through Parliament early in 2010. The child poverty working group has reported to the Children's Trust, with the most recent update report being taken to the Trust on 26 November 2009.
- 3.3 Commitment to tackle issues of child poverty and their impact across the town has been further strengthened by a review of financial inclusion and child poverty by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee. It is anticipated that findings of this review will add further to knowledge of the issues across the town.
- 3.4 Officers have also engaged with regional activity in relation to child poverty and the Assistant Director for Planning and Service Integration (Child and Adult Services) has joined the North East Local Authority Child Poverty Policy Network on which held its inaugural meeting on 14 December 2009.
- 3.5 Considerable progress has been made in that a substantive draft strategy and a working action plan have been prepared and recently re-drafted in line with information that was available in relation to the Child Poverty Bill 2009 (now the Child Poverty Act 2010). The draft strategy and action plan are attached as **Appendix A** and **Appendix B**. However, officers have been concerned that, in anticipating final, formal guidance and new duties which may fall on the local authority, it has been difficult to establish activity on a more formal footing as this might not be compatible with expected new guidance and legislation.
- 3.6 The Children's Trust has demonstrated its commitment to take activity forward by holding an event on 25 February, just before the start of the Trust Board's meeting, when members of the Trust and other key stakeholders were invited to sign the Child Poverty Pledge. The Pledge is attached as **Appendix C**.
- 3.7 As identified in 2.3, Hartlepool included the reduction of the proportion of children in poverty as an improvement target within the local area agreement for 2008/2011. As part of the process of refreshing this target for its final year (2010/11), a change was negotiated with Government Office in how the target would be expressed. Instead of being a percentage of the total child population, the measure is now the gap between rates of child poverty in Hartlepool and other north east authorities. The designated target has been set at maintaining the gap at 4.8%. However, the Council debated this on 25 February 2010 and supported a proposal for a more aspirational local target to be set at narrowing the gap to 4.3% in 2010/11.

4. CHILD POVERTY ACT 2010

4.1 The Child Poverty Act 2010 received Royal Assent on 25 March 2010. The Act places duties on local authorities and named partners to cooperate in tackling child poverty. The named partners who have a duty to cooperate with the local authority are:

- Police Authority
- Chief Officer of Police
- Integrated Transport Authority
- Strategic Health Authority
- Primary Care Trust
- Youth Offending Team
- Probation Services
- Job Centre Plus

These partners already work with the Hartlepool Partnership in their role as Board Members or members of Theme Partnerships.

4.2 The duties the Act places on the local authority and its partners are:

- To cooperate to reduce Child Poverty in the local area
- To carry out a Child Poverty Needs Assessment and produce a joint Local Child Poverty Strategy
- Have regard to Child Poverty duties when preparing or revising their Sustainable Community Strategies
- To take account of the statutory guidance issued by Government.

4.3 Further information about the duties on local authorities under the Act has been made available in draft interim guidance. This interim guidance does not have a statutory basis although following consultation during 2010 it is anticipated that it will be issued on a statutory basis. As well as setting out the list of partners who have a duty to cooperate the guidance also identifies the need for clear governance structures. It provides further information about the needs assessments that will be required and the expectations of what would represent a comprehensive local strategy.

4.4 Expected timescales are that the local child poverty needs assessments should be published within 6 months of duties coming into force and in time to feed into the next round of Local Area Agreements i.e. October 2010. It is expected that local child poverty strategies will be in place by April 2011.

- 4.5 The Act refers to national targets in relation to child poverty and the duty of the Secretary of State to meet targets in relation to relative low income, material deprivation, absolute low income and persistent poverty. The performance of local authorities is currently measured by means of National Indicator 116, which is a measure of the proportion of children who live in families in receipt of out of work benefits. One challenge in addressing child poverty in Hartlepool will be to identify a set of measures which will give meaningful information on the progress that is being made to reduce child poverty in the town.

5. OPTIONS FOR TAKING FORWARD WORK IN HARTLEPOOL

- 5.1 Officers have been anxious that, in waiting for clarification about the progress of the Child Poverty Bill during the early part of 2010 and the imposition of new statutory duties on the local authority, there should be no loss of impetus in taking work forward with partners across the town to address the issues of child poverty and its impact on a significant number of children and families across Hartlepool. It is therefore suggested that, rather than issuing a final version of the strategy and action plan, the existing documents which have been refined to meet the requirements of the Child Poverty Act and guidance as far as these are currently understood, should remain as working drafts. This should facilitate the incorporation of any outcomes of the current Scrutiny enquiry and also allow flexibility to ensure compliance with the new legislation once final guidance is issued. The action plan is a dynamic document that will need to be regularly refreshed. A number of the original activities have been completed and the assigned responsible individuals may change in some cases, depending on the governance model which is adopted.
- 5.2 When work was first started to develop and implement a Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan, the Mayor and Chief Executive tasked the Children's Trust to do this and work was undertaken on a broad front across the theme partnerships within the Local Strategic Partnership. As an interim arrangement, an ad hoc working group was established and reports have been taken back to the Children's Trust. Membership of the group was based on lead officers from each of the Local Strategic Partnership themes, reflecting the cross cutting nature of the issues underlying child poverty. There has, however, also been significant Member interest in the issue. The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee is currently undertaking an in-depth review of child poverty and financial inclusion. Across the region, the Association of North East Councils (ANEC) established a task and finish group to look at the issue of child poverty. The Chair of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee and the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development, as the Chair of the ANEC Task and Finish Group, and the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services have all attended the existing working group, thus broadening it from its establishment as an officer working group.

- 5.3 In order to drive forward the Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan governance arrangements now need to be formalised in line with the requirements of the Child Poverty Act 2010. The draft guidance makes reference to the need for a Child Poverty Partnership Board. However it also states that this need not be a new group and partners may cooperate through existing structures and forums. The guidance notes that whilst Children's Trusts are "key to the success of tackling poverty" they are "not named as the responsible body because in some areas they may not be able to influence wider drivers as such as Economic Regeneration". Guidance goes on to state "local areas will want to agree the most effective reporting and accountability mechanisms across the relevant local structures including the Children's Trusts, Thematic Boards, Senior Management Teams and Local Strategic Partnerships".
- 5.4 The guidance is clear that child poverty needs to be given a high profile and should be cross cutting to ensure full engagement of all partners who need to contribute if the issues underlying child poverty are to be effectively tackled. This suggests that the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Board would be an appropriate structure to fulfil the role of the Child Poverty Partnership Board. There has already been significant involvement of representatives from the Theme Partnerships in the preparation of Hartlepool's Strategy and Action Plan.
- 5.5 Member engagement would be embedded as Elected Members are represented on the Partnership Board and within the Theme Partnerships. If this model of governance is agreed then, in order to support the work of the LSP and the Members who sit on it, a multi-agency officer group would need to be established. It is suggested that the officer working group should include officer representation from across the theme partnerships, including the Children's Trust and also from the Financial Inclusion Partnership. The choice of officers should also reflect the partner authorities identified in the Child Poverty Act 2010. The proposed membership of the group would be put to the LSP for its consideration.
- 5.6 Alternatively a separate Child Poverty Partnership Board could be established with representation from the partners with a duty to cooperate. However this would appear to be bureaucratic given that the required partners with a duty to cooperate are already represented within the Local Strategic Partnership either at Board level or within the Theme Partnerships.

- 5.7 It is anticipated that the Children's Trust will continue to play an important part in driving forward work in relation to Child Poverty but this work would be strengthened by the engagement of a the wider partnership under the Local Strategic Partnership. Furthermore, the Chair of the Children's Trust would be an appropriate Member to take on the role of Poverty Champion on the LSP. For the Children's Trust to take on the role of the Child Poverty Partnership Board it would need to include new partners who have a duty to cooperate under the Child Poverty Act 2010 but who are not currently members of the Trust. This would be counter to the recent reconfiguration of the Trust which has been undertaken to streamline membership.
- 5.8 In summary the options for fulfilling the requirements of a Child Poverty Partnership Board in line with the requirements of the Child Poverty Act 2010 are as follows:-

Option 1

That the Local Strategic Partnership take on the role of the Child Poverty Partnership Board, with the Chair of the Children's Trust acting as the Child Poverty Champion on the Board and with the establishment of a cross-agency officer working group as identified in 5.5 to support the work of the LSP in relation to child poverty.

Option 2

That a new, separate Child Poverty Partnership Board, with representation from all the partners with a duty to cooperate, is established.

Option 3

The responsibility for fulfilling the role of the Child Poverty Partnership Board is placed with the Children's Trust, necessitating the expansion of the membership of the Trust to include all the partners with a duty to cooperate.

- 5.9 The preferred option is Option 1 for the reasons outlined in 5.4 – 5.7 above. This model would meet the requirements of guidance, ensure Member engagement and would not create additional bureaucracy.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There are currently no financial implications for carrying forward work on the Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan as the work has been absorbed within existing Local Strategic Partnership and Children's Trust Themes. It is anticipated that the work of the officer group required by option 1 could be absorbed in the same way as work has been undertaken in the development of the strategy and action plan; many of the officers currently involved in the ad hoc working group could become members of the new group.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Cabinet is asked to endorse the current Child Poverty Strategy and Action and Plan and Pledge and agree that the strategy and action plan should continue as substantive working drafts, to facilitate the incorporation of outcomes from the current Scrutiny enquiry and to allow flexibility to ensure compliance with new legislation once final guidance is published.
- 7.2 Cabinet is requested to recommend that the Local Strategic Partnership take on the role of the Child Poverty Partnership Board, with the Chair of the Children's Trust acting as the Child Poverty Champion on the Board and with the establishment of a cross agency officer working group to support the work of the LSP in relation to child poverty.

CONTACT OFFICER: Sue Johnson, Assistant Director (Planning and Service Integration)



Hartlepool

Child Poverty Strategy

2009-2014

Child Poverty – Everybody's Business

February/March 2010

CONTENTS		
Section	Title	Page Number(s)
	Abbreviations	3
1	Foreword by the Mayor	4-5
2	Preface by the Chief Executive and Chair of the Children's Trust	6-7
3	Introduction	8-9
4	What is the purpose of the Strategy and Action Plan?	10-11
5	What is the vision for Hartlepool?	12
6	What are the cost implications and consequences of child poverty?	13-15
7	Definitions of Child Poverty	16-17
8	What are the current levels of child poverty in Hartlepool and the North East of England?	18-19
9	What attributing demographic factors impact on the child poverty rate in Hartlepool?	20-21
10	Which groups are most at risk of being in poverty?	22
11	What are the current priority targets that will contribute towards reducing child poverty?	23-30
12	What are the resource implications for tackling child poverty in Hartlepool?	31
13	What are the Governance Arrangements for the Action Plan?	32
14	How will the Child Poverty Strategy be implemented?	33-34
15	How will stakeholders be consulted on the Strategy and Action Plan?	35
16	Sustainability	36-37
	Bibliography	38

Abbreviations

DWP	Department of Work and Pensions
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GONE	Government Office North East
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
IAG	Information Advice and Guidance
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
LAA	Local Area Agreement
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership
NEET	Not in Education Employment or Training
NI	National Indicator
NRA	Neighbourhood Renewal Area
ONS	Office for National Statistics
SOA	Super Output Areas
T2G	Train to Gain

1 Foreword by the Mayor

In March 1999, the Government pledged to eradicate child poverty within a generation as a direct response to the 3.4 million children living in absolute poverty in the UK in 1998/99. As in all local authority areas, child poverty remains a blight on our landscape and in Hartlepool there are almost 30% of children classified as living in poverty.

As the Mayor, I am very determined that every effort will be made to ensure that the complex causes of child poverty are tackled head on. We are a proud town that has always been committed to creating a prosperous and fairer society where *'everybody matters'*. We must ensure that all young children have the best possible start in life so that they may enjoy a rewarding and fulfilling childhood which will allow them to meet their aspirational goals in later life.

Living in poverty and material deprivation causes the most damage to children's outcomes and is directly linked to longer term issues including unfulfilled potential, low educational attainment and poor health. It also has a far reaching impact on the wider community with extra pressures and costs on public services and employers unable to compete in a global market due to low productivity as a direct result of low attainment and skills.

It is my belief that this strategy and action plan will ensure that the eventual eradication of child poverty is at the heart of all Hartlepool's organisational and policy changes, service planning and commissioning processes. Through these documents and the newly formed Child Poverty Pledge, all partners across the town, whether from the public, private, third sector or business community will be invited to commit their organisation, services and expertise to minimising this inequality.

Appendix A

The introduction of the new Child Poverty Bill in 2010 enshrines in legislation the Government's promise to eradicate child poverty by 2020. This sets out high expectations for the Government and local authorities to implement actions to meet this challenge. To do this we must continue to be bold in our actions, innovative and flexible in our approach.

I am confident that we can make a difference and look forward to working with stakeholders to benefit from your expertise so that we can accelerate and positively progress this strategy and action plan.

I am confident that we can meet the challenge of the Child Poverty Bill set for local authorities. With our excellent track record of partnership working in Hartlepool, I know we can make a difference to our children and young people by working with stakeholders to implement this Strategy and Action Plan.

Stuart Drummond, Mayor

2 Preface by the Chief Executive and Chair of the Children's Trust

Child poverty has major consequences for both the individual and the community which impact on the future economic prosperity of the town. Children who live in poverty may lack many of the experiences and opportunities that their peers take for granted which prevent them from achieving their full potential.

Being exposed to poverty can affect a child's social, emotional and psychological development and has wider implications for communities including exclusion, severe hardship and poor social cohesion.

The strategy recognises that no single organisation or policy can tackle these multiple, complex and overlapping issues in isolation. It is believed that the best way out of poverty for children and their families can be secured by increasing parental employment rates and therefore raising income, improving the financial and material support of families and by tackling deprivation within our communities. However, improving incomes does not imply that all problems will be resolved for families in poverty.

If Hartlepool is going to be effective in reducing and then eradicating child poverty by 2020, it will require all agencies to accept the challenge of renewed approaches to partnership activity, consider innovation and explore new ways of working.

Hartlepool Borough Council and partners already invest significant resources and expertise to support children and their families across the town. This strategy will build on these successes which have seen a reduction in the proportion of children in poverty, a year on year increase in the employment rate, improved attainment of level 2 and level 3 qualifications for those adults aged 19-plus and improved access to high quality, available and affordable childcare.

Appendix A

This strategy is aligned to the Every Child Matters agenda and will be underpinned by the Community Strategy, Children and Young People's Plan and new Local Area Agreement (LAA) which bring together universal and targeted provision which will improve outcomes for all children, young people and their families.

The Child Poverty Action Plan will be developed in consultation with key partners and will set out how the long term objectives of the strategy will be achieved. The Action Plan will outline the support and commitment of all partners to ensure that every child has the best start in life by providing them with high quality services.

To make this happen, elected members, local authority officers and partners will drive forward this agenda and will ensure that all policy changes and future initiatives within the town are subject to child poverty 'proofing' and will ask, *'What positive impact does this proposal have on the lives of our poorest children?'.*

Paul Walker, Chief Executive

Councillor Hill, Chair, Children's Trust

3 Introduction

Hartlepool Borough Council's Child Poverty Strategy is a key part of the authority's business activity. This document underpins the Council's Corporate and Departmental Plans, the Community Strategy and new Local Area Agreement (LAA) and will provide evidence on the key strategic priorities which will improve the life chances of all children, young people and their families.

The strategy is linked to the LAA and identifies key national and local priority targets which will contribute to tackling child poverty including National Indicator (NI) 116 'Reduce the proportion of children in poverty'. The LAA provides a mechanism for the pooling of resources and delivery measures which will complement and add value to any additional initiatives that may be implemented as part of this strategy and the newly created Child Poverty Action Plan. This is a five year strategy which will be reviewed and refreshed at the end of the new LAA process in March 2011.

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 nationally to include NI 116 as a priority target. This demonstrates the support of both the Local Authority and the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in placing child poverty at the centre of activities to improve outcomes for children and families in Hartlepool. The new Sustainable Community Strategy (2008) reinforces this message 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".

For this to happen we will require the full support of all delivery agents from the statutory, private and third sector to work collaboratively towards six new key objectives which are key to tackling child poverty including:

- Ensure that children that live in poverty are safe
- Increase the parental employment rate
- Improve skill levels

- Increase the benefit take up rate, including in-work and out-of-work benefits
- Prevent those at risk from falling into poverty
- Where it is evident that a family is experiencing poverty take action to mitigate its effect.

This strategy builds on the initial scoping work by the Regional Child Poverty Strategy Group, which was facilitated by Government Office North East (GONE). It will complement the work of the Child Poverty Task and Finish Group, established by the Association of North East Councils, and the North East Improvement and Efficiency Partnership and the new Regional Child Poverty Champion.

Child poverty is a multi-faceted and complex issue to which there is no simple solution. Therefore, the Mayor and Chief Executive have demonstrated significant commitment to reducing child poverty in Hartlepool by tasking the Children's Trust to develop and implement this strategy and action plan.

4 What is the purpose of the strategy and action plan?

Hartlepool Borough Council and the partners that form the Hartlepool Strategic Partnership are committed to tackling the complex causes and consequences of child poverty. The Partnership has always been instrumental in driving forward policies and strategies for improvement where social injustice and exclusion for local residents have been identified. Although eradicating child poverty is a significant undertaking, the Partnership is committed to meeting its responsibilities.

The development of the Child Poverty Strategy is necessary to address the following key issues:

- To build on existing strategies at a national and regional level
- To ensure other relevant local strategies impact on our aim to eradicate child poverty including: -
 - Community Strategy
 - New Local Area Agreement
 - Children and Young People's Plan;
 - 14-19 Operational Plan
 - Economic Development Strategy
 - NEET Reduction Strategy
 - Housing Hartlepool's Strategy
 - Teenage Pregnancy Strategy
 - Education and School Improvement Strategy
 - Parenting Strategy
 - Hidden Harm Strategy
 - Think Family Reforms
 - Prevention Strategy
 - Children's Centre and Extended Services Strategy
 - Neighbourhood Management and Empowerment Strategy.

- To provide a longer term vision and direction which complements and adds value to the new LAA process and which includes the National Indicator 116 'reducing the proportion of children living in poverty'.
- In February 2010, the original Local Area Agreement National Indicator 116 target of reducing the proportion of children in families on out of work benefits was refreshed and agreed with Government Office North East (GONE). Hartlepool's new LAA target will now be to maintain the gap between Hartlepool and the North East Regional average by 4.8 percentage points by the end of March 2011.
- To encourage partners to work together to develop, refine and 'bend' their service delivery by pooling financial resources and exploring pioneering approaches which can produce positive results.
- To influence local partners to 'think differently' about how they can contribute to reducing child poverty.
- To provide a renewed and revitalised impetus by the local authority and partners to seek solutions to improve the circumstances and life chances of children living in poverty or at risk of living in poverty.

In developing this strategy Hartlepool Borough Council understands the need to set its actions alongside interventions from central government including increases in welfare benefits (including child tax credits), improved childcare provision and new legislation to improve flexible working arrangements for families. In addition, families living in or at risk of poverty need improved access to benefit, money and debt guidance together with signposting to sources of affordable credit.

However, it is understood that the anticipated prolonged recession will cause the employment rate to be lower than previously forecast with the employment rate of lone parents being the same in 2010 as it was in 2006. This is due to the recession counteracting the effect of new welfare-to-work measures to get lone parents into work.

5 What is vision for Hartlepool?

Hartlepool Borough Council will build upon the Government's ambition to halve child poverty by 2010 and eradicate child poverty by 2020 by:

- Tackling the causes and consequences of poverty so that all children and young people have a good start in life, enjoy a fulfilling childhood with all the opportunities they need.
- Enabling families to break out of inter-generational cycles of deprivation through a variety of measures including intensive family support, access to appropriate financial assistance, training and employment.

It will work with partners to ensure that its vision for Hartlepool is achieved and that it will create:

'A society where all children and young people grow up free from deprivation and disadvantage and where birth and social background do not hold people back from achieving their full potential'.

Hartlepool Borough Council fully supports this ambition and will endorse it by positive actions to address child poverty.

6 What are the cost implications and consequences of child poverty?

Research has shown that the full socio-economic cost implications and consequences of not tackling child poverty are likely to be 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 (2008) and The Fabian Society (2005) reported that the United Kingdom continues to underestimate the extent, severity and structural basis of child poverty and so fails to appreciate its true personal and social cost.

Only a small number of studies have produced estimates 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).

Whilst it is difficult to extrapolate these costs, it is self-evident that reducing child poverty is a fiscal investment which can produce higher rates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), improve global competitiveness and help minimise expenditure on crime, healthcare, social housing and welfare benefits.

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 the number of young people aged 16 to 18 years who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) which has significant cost to the local and national economy in terms of benefits and lost taxes. The fiscal cost to the

6.2
Appendix A

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).

In the United Kingdom, Donald Hirsch (2006) estimates £500 million of additional primary healthcare expenditure is required as a direct result of child poverty. HM Treasury (2008) estimates that poor health has wider costs to the economy as a result of sickness absence and lower productivity rates.

National and international research clearly shows the effects that taking no action to reduce child poverty will have including:

- 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.
- 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.
- Some people (but not all) that 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Growing up in poverty is associated with a substantially higher risk of teenage pregnancy.

- A relationship has also been identified between child poverty and living in social housing as an adult, with studies by Hobcraft and Kiernan (2001) and Sigle-Rushton (2004) both demonstrating a strong link between these two factors.
- 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.
- 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.

It is clear that there is a substantial cost to society in terms of resources and services and of fully participative citizens that contribute to overall society.

7 Definition of Child Poverty

Given the multiple factors that contribute to child poverty, it is evident that there is a need to view any definition and measures of child poverty from a number of differing angles. Attempting to define and measure child poverty solely in terms of income and material deprivation would be to fail to understand the complexity of this issue. There are consistently identified common elements of child poverty within families including psychological, social, emotional, cultural, health and aspirational poverty. 'Hidden' poverty may occur within families who are above the official poverty measurement but where income is used to pay debts or non-essential 'luxury' items. Because of this some children may experience a lack of basic necessities including healthy food.

There are four commonly used definitions to measure child poverty:-

- **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.
- **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.
- **Material deprivation:** hybrid of 'lacking certain goods and services and being below 70% of the median wage'.
- **Index of Child Wellbeing in the European Union:** a composite measure based on many indicators on a 'causal' model rather than 'effect' model.

Appendix A

In 2007, HM Treasury made a decision to measure absolute, relative and material deprivation collectively so that eradicating child poverty in the long term would only be met if all three measures were achieved. However, Hartlepool currently uses a proxy indicator to measure levels of child poverty through the Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) and Office for National Statistics (ONS) data. The figures represent the percentage of children in poverty as measured by children in families receiving key benefits.

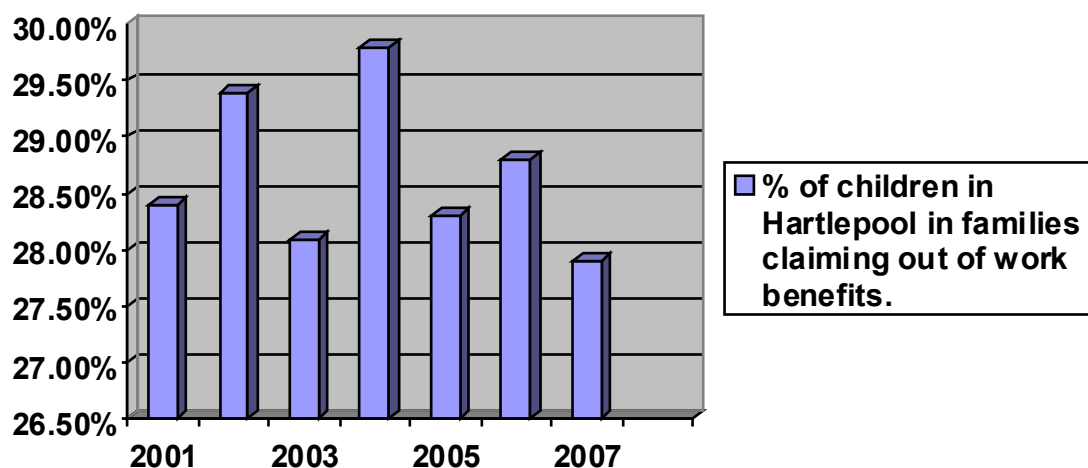
8 What are the current levels of child poverty in Hartlepool and the North East of England?

Tables 1 and 2 illustrate that between 2001 and 2007, child poverty rates in Hartlepool reduced in both real and percentage terms.

Table 1 - Client group analysis of actual numbers of children in working age families on key benefits*

Year	Actual Number of Children	Number of children in Poverty	% of children in poverty
2001	23,408	6,500	28.4%
2002	23,256	6,700	29.4%
2003	23,125	6,500	28.1%
2004	22,194	6,800	29.8%
2005	22,684	6,500	28.3%
2006	22,505	6,500	28.8%
2007	22,324	6,300	27.9%

Table 2 - Client group analysis of children in Hartlepool in families claiming out of work benefits*



* 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.

6.2 Appendix A

Table 3 highlights the percentage of children in families on out of work benefits by local authority area which provide a proxy measure of the number of children living in poverty. Currently, Hartlepool has the third highest percentage of families claiming out of work benefits from the 23 North East of England Local Authority areas.

Table 3 - Children in families on out of work benefits by local authority area

Local Authority Area	Percentage
Tynemouth	9%
Alnwick	12%
Teesdale	13%
Berwick upon Tweed	14%
Chester-le-Street	14%
Castle Morpeth	16%
Durham	16%
Blyth Valley	20%
Derwentside	20%
North Tyneside	20%
Darlington	21%
Stockton-on-Tees	21%
Sedgefield	22%
Gateshead	23%
Sunderland	23%
Wear Valley	24%
Redcar & Cleveland	25%
Wansbeck	25%
Easington	27%
South Tyneside	27%
Hartlepool	27.9%
Newcastle upon Tyne	29%
Middlesbrough	31%

9 What attributing demographic factors impact on the child poverty rate in Hartlepool?

Approximately 90,000 people live in Hartlepool 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.

There are key demographic factors which impact on the child poverty rate in Hartlepool and although the following is not an exhaustive list it provides an indication of the issues currently experienced:-

- 29.1% of children live in households where parents claim a benefit
- unemployment in January 2010 stood at 7.3%
- 13% of adults claim an incapacity or other sickness related benefit in Hartlepool with the Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA) rate being approximately 20%
- 39.4% of the working age population have qualifications to NVQ 3 or above however 16.7% have no qualifications
- 7.1% of households are in housing need
- level of lone parent households is 8.7% compared to 6.5% nationally
- Hartlepool still has the second highest teenage pregnancy rate nationally
- free school meals rate for 5 to 16 year old pupils is currently 22.4% and is above the national average
- 3,443 children aged 3-17 years are recorded by schools as having a Special Educational Need (SEN)
- people with limiting long term illness is 24.4% compared to 18.2% nationally
- the income support rate in the most deprived wards is 2.5 times higher than the national average

- in the past 7 years the rate of Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance claimants in the most deprived wards has reduced at a faster rate than the national average, however, it still remains 2.5 times above the national average
- in the Owton area of Hartlepool, nearly 50% of adults are identified within the worklessness category
- Hartlepool's overall employment rate had previously increased over the past eight years, but due to the economic downturn has reduced to 63.3% which is 10 percentage points behind the Great Britain rate
- a small but significant number of adults (600) are without a bank account.

10 Which groups are most at risk of being in poverty?

Research has identified a number of vulnerable groups most at risk of being in or falling into poverty and these are shown below :-

- families where one or more adults are out of work
- families where one or more adults work part time
- ethnic minority families
- families who have caring responsibilities - including caring for the elderly
- lone parents
- families where one or more of the adults are disabled
- families where one or more of their children are disabled
- families with more than three children
- families with children aged less than five years
- families with a history of depression and mental health illness
- families with substance misuse, a history of domestic violence and/ or offenders in prison.

Therefore, any future policy changes, strategies or operational activities to tackle child poverty in Hartlepool should consider how best to engage and provide wrap around support to the above groups.

11 What are the current priority targets that will contribute towards reducing child poverty?

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. Each of these agencies will need to work collaboratively and will need to align their services to the six new 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, including in-work and out-of-work benefits
- Prevent those at risk from falling into poverty
- Where it is evident that a family is experiencing poverty take action to mitigate its effect.

In addition Hartlepool Borough Council and partners will work together to increase the financial capability of children, young people and adults through the provision of and access to educational sessions, financial services and free money and debt guidance.

Through the LAA process, the Local Authority already measures the performance of a number of these objectives which will be extremely beneficial in identifying whether specific LAA national indicators are contributing towards reducing the number of children and families in poverty.

Hartlepool Borough Council believes that if child poverty is to be significantly reduced then the following LAA targets will need to be achieved:

Theme	National Indicator	NI Number
Jobs & Economy	Proportion of Children in Poverty	NI 116
Jobs & Economy	16 to 18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET)	NI 117
Jobs & Economy	Overall Employment Rate	NI 151
Jobs & Economy	Working age population claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods	NI 153

A range of other activities outlined below support work to achieving the priority targets and contribute to reducing child poverty.

Financial advice and guidance and access to affordable credit - Families living in poverty are at risk of using 'door step lenders' for credit, further exacerbating their financial hardship. All children and young people must be supported in their financial education. Adults need improved access to both mainstream and specialist financial services including benefits advice, money and debt guidance and where appropriate sources of affordable credit. This can be achieved in conjunction with partner organisations (The Financial Inclusion Partnership) and with schools.

Early Intervention - It is crucial that we support families as early as possible and SureStart Children's Centres offer that earliest intervention for parents with children aged 0- 5years old. Hartlepool's Children's Centres offer parents one to one support to address the many barriers they have in accessing training and employment. Many parents lack self esteem and a number have health issues that prevent them from gaining employment. Outreach workers are available to support parents through an individual pathway with the ultimate aim of gaining employment. Targeted and specialist support is available for parents in a number of ways. Counsellors and family support

Appendix A

workers are available to support parents who cannot contemplate training or employment due to personal issues such as substance misuse, domestic violence and/or post natal depression. Money management and benefits advice is available through third sector groups such as the Credit Union and West View Advice and Resource Centre. Jobcentre Plus advisers offer sessions in the Children's Centres to support parents into training and employment. Employment and training is a key area of priority for Children's Centres and Children's Centre managers will continue to work in partnership with stakeholders in addressing child poverty.

Childcare - It is important that parents are able to access the childcare needed for them to enter training or employment. Hartlepool's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2007-08 and interim assessments for 2008-09 and 2009-10 clearly show a gap in some areas of the town in suitable, affordable, accessible childcare that can enable a parent take up training or work.

Family Intervention Project - In Hartlepool there is a commitment to tackling poverty in families through a number of initiatives that target intergenerational unemployment and its impact on family members. Aspirations for children are low in these families and a culture of early take up of benefits is evident. These families are socially isolated and tend to live in the town's most deprived wards. The Family Intervention Project supports these families through services that are targeted, supportive and assertive. In particular, where poverty relates to crime, anti-social behaviour, mental health, domestic violence and substance misuse, there is active intervention and support to the family to alter their behaviour and lifestyle. Each family placed on the Family Intervention Project has a complex set of needs that relate to poverty and require both short term and long term targets. There is a commitment to ensure that each individual's programme will result in employment opportunities that are achievable and realistic with support from all partners.

Support into Employment - Although Hartlepool has seen an increase in the unemployment rate and is faced with significant challenges due to the downturn within the global economy, there continues to be major investment by partners to increase the employment rate and reduce the number of adults who are on a benefit and the number of young people who are NEET (not in education, employment or training). Jobcentre Plus continues to provide provision and services to adults on out-of-work benefits to move them closer to the labour market including Pathways to Work, Jobseekers Allowance and the new Employment Support Allowance. In October 2009 the Flexible New Deal provision replaced former New Deal programmes and aims to find more effective ways to help more than 200,000 long-term unemployed people into work each year. Under the Flexible New Deal, after 12 months of unemployment, claimants will be referred to private or third sector contractors, who will be paid to support claimants back to work. This new approach represents a radical shift in mainstream employment services and nationally there will be up to £2 billion of contracts to be allocated over the next five years which will allow innovation in welfare to work provision. Hartlepool Borough Council is utilising Working Neighbourhood Funding to combat the cycle between worklessness and the lack of economic growth and to regenerate some of the town's most deprived areas. The total Working Neighbourhood's Funding to be allocated to Hartlepool to tackle worklessness, skills and enterprise over the next three years will be £4,502,180 in 2008-2009, £5,378,345 in 2009-2010 and £5,589,121 in 2010-2011.

Jobcentre Plus - Jobcentre Plus is leading on the Local Employment Partnerships which is a partnership between the Government and businesses to tackle increasing recruitment and skills challenges to provide disadvantaged groups with on the job training, mentoring or work trials. Hartlepool Borough Council and partners continue to focus on securing funding through Jobcentre Plus and Learning and Skills Council European Social Funding and Single Programme funding. Further policies to make work pay and assist in improving the employment rate include the introduction of the National Minimum Wage, Working Tax Credits, improved access to

6.2 Appendix A

flexible, affordable, good quality childcare, rights to flexible working and parental leave to make it easier to balance work and family life.

Connexions - Connexions is the lead organisation involved in the reduction of young people who are NEET. In January 2009 the Hartlepool rate was 7.9%, the first time the number has fallen below 8%, and exceeds the target set with Government Office North East of 8.4%. This is due to strong partnership working to target specific young people who are at risk of disaffection from mainstream provision, the introduction of the September Guarantee which guarantees all 16 and 17 year olds education, employment or training placements and the new Going Forward programme which is targeting 400 young people who are already NEET or at risk of becoming NEET.

Team Around the School – This is a mechanism for coordinating support for children and families. Support targeted at families living in poverty needs to be linked into universal services, particularly through schools, reflecting the commitment to the need for life long learning to be at the centre of social change and the foundation for raising community aspirations in Hartlepool. The Team Around the School approach to service provision provides an opportunity to integrate services provided for families and to ensure that early identification of needs results in a “Think Family” response to these needs. This is complemented by the Parenting Strategy that ensures a universal offer to all parents who need to develop their expertise in bringing up children.

Education, Skills and Qualifications - SureStart Children's Centres provide support to families at the earliest opportunity in the antenatal period. Research shows that attachment in the first few months of a child's life has a profound effect on their future achievements which will include their education achievement. Research also shows that parental involvement in a child's life significantly increases a child's positive outcomes. SureStart Children's Centres are working with parents to ensure they are fully involved in their child's education. Pupils achieving a grade A* to C at GCSE in Hartlepool has gone up over past three years. For the first time ever, the percentage of pupils achieving five A* to G grades at GCSE reached the national average.

Appendix A

Performance at Key Stage 3 (aged 14) in English, Maths and Science and at Key Stage 2 (aged 11) has improved so much that Hartlepool has been identified as one of the most improved local authorities in the country. Performance at many levels in English and Maths is now above the national average. Whilst there are still skills gaps within specific sectors in Hartlepool, in part due to changes to the labour market, the number of level 2 and level 3 qualifications being achieved at 19 has further increased. Completion rates for Advanced Apprenticeships (level 3) continue to improve with the 2006/07 figures showing an increase of 10% on the previous year to 73.2%. New flexibilities have been increased to Next Step adult Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) provision in response to the economic downturn with enhanced support to respond to individuals under threat of redundancy. Train 2 Gain (T2G) provision is also assisting with improving skills and the number of Hartlepool residents completing is growing with the latest figures showing an extra 169 of learners and 283 qualifications being achieved. New flexibilities through T2G will mean that volunteers can access this provision and beneficiaries can be supported to complete units and second level 2 qualifications. Flexible Skills Funding is now available to Small to Medium sized Enterprises (SME's) via Business & Enterprise North East (BENE) to support a range of training and development activities with staff. Work is almost complete on the refurbishment of Hartlepool Sixth Form College and is due for completion in September 2010. Work has begun on Hartlepool College of Further Education and the redevelopment of their existing site is underway. Five Diploma lines have now been approved for delivery in Hartlepool: Engineering, Creative & Media, Hair & Beauty, Hospitality and Environmental & Land Based Studies. To increase opportunities for parents to develop employment-related skills literacy and numeracy programmes, level 2 qualifications continue to be funded and employers are encouraged to make a skills pledge.

No one service will ensure that children move out of poverty but without a sound and effective education process the likelihood of a life in poverty is extremely high. This strategy will focus on supporting parents to ensure that their children are ready and able to gain maximum benefit from their school experience and that through the enjoyment of education they aspire to a life

of employment and achievement. We will provide a range of prevention services through children's centres and schools that makes appropriate support accessible when it is first required and at a level that ensures long lasting positive change is achieved. It is expected that this effective early response will over time have a major impact on those areas identified as relating directly to poverty.

Teenage Pregnancy Strategy - Hartlepool has achieved significant progress in delivering its Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and annual action plans. The strategic vision for reducing teenage pregnancy in Hartlepool is that by 2010 young people of Hartlepool will have access to high quality, accessible and acceptable services which reflect their needs in terms of:

- Sex and relationships education
- Contraception and sexual health services
- Integrated support for young parents.

These services will be developed with the involvement of young people, with the aim of reducing stigma and disadvantage for the communities of Hartlepool. Since the inception of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy in October 2001 Hartlepool has made significant progress towards achieving this vision. This has been achieved by ensuring that sex and relationships education is now delivered not only in our secondary schools but also in special schools, pupil referral units and our primary schools. The Youth Service now co-ordinates sex and relationship education programmes for delivery in non-school settings and training for youth workers in the statutory and voluntary sector. All staff delivering sex and relationship education are trained to ensure that they are giving consistent and correct information to young people in terms of sexual health and sex and relationship education. Contraceptive and sexual health services for young people have moved forward. In 2001 Hartlepool had one service for young people addressing all their contraceptive needs. There are now an additional three dedicated clinics for young people with an additional one planned. These clinics are situated in 'hotspot' wards and provide level 2 sexual health services. Condom distribution is available in 32 different outlets across the town. Emergency contraception is available free of charge in 13 community

Appendix A

pharmacies of which 4 are supplying under 16s. A Saturday morning mobile resource is very popular with in excess of 80 young people attending per session. The Teenage Pregnancy Support Service has had a remarkable impact on the co-ordination of services for pregnant teenagers and young parents and is seen as the central point of contact for professionals working with young parents. It now has an accredited antenatal group and postnatal group for pregnant teenagers and young parents respectively. Practical support is also available in the form of equipment starter packs. The supported housing scheme – Anna Court became operational in July 2004 and 11 young parents have completed support packages and moved on to independent tenancies. The Connexions service has identified a Lead Personal Adviser for teenage parents and information sharing is improving because of this.

12 What are the resource implications for tackling child poverty in Hartlepool?

Hartlepool Borough Council and partners recognise that it requires a co-ordinated approach to service delivery to meet the challenges of child poverty. Research indicates that the best solution to reducing child poverty is through increasing the level of family income by improving parental employment and benefit take up rates. To achieve this requires a commitment by all partners to pool resources and expertise. Only by maximising service provision can we reduce the number of children in poverty.

The resource level required for this challenge is currently unquantifiable, however, significant financial contributions can be offered through the active re-focusing of mainstream resources and by actively seeking external funding opportunities which complement the longer term actions of key partners. At the present time, there is significant resource allocation available through a range of services and provision covering benefits, social services, education, health, housing, employment and skills. However, it is recognised that service delivery and funding so far have not successfully reduced the number of children in poverty in Hartlepool. Therefore, debates will be required between agencies and recommendations given for the flexibility of resources and cross departmental resource allocation throughout the lifetime of this strategy and action plan.

It is essential that the services and programmes being delivered by Hartlepool Borough Council, its agencies and all other key partners are prioritised or 'bent' to favour activity that benefits the poorest and most disadvantaged children. The need for programme bending requires a strong and lasting commitment from all partners to ensure mainstream programmes are delivered in response to the needs identified in the Child Poverty Action Plan.

13 What are the Governance Arrangements for the Action Plan?

The Child Poverty Bill, which is currently going through Parliamentary processes, is expected to receive Royal Assent in March 2010. It will place duties on local authorities and named partners to cooperate in tackling child poverty as follows:

- to cooperate to reduce child poverty in the local area;
- to carry out a child poverty needs assessment and produce a joint local child poverty strategy;
- to have regard to child poverty duties when preparing or revising their Sustainable Communities Strategy;
- to take account of the statutory guidance issued by Government.

Prior to the current detail of the Child Poverty Bill and accompanying guidance being available, the Mayor and Chief Executive originally tasked the Children's Trust to develop and implement Hartlepool's Child Poverty Strategy, Action Plan and Pledge. As an interim arrangement, an ad hoc working group was established based on members of the Local Strategic Partnership themes and reports on progress have been taken back to the Children's Trust. The latest guidance on the Child Poverty Bill 2009 makes it clear that there is a specified range of partners who will have a duty to cooperate in tackling child poverty. The draft guidance recognises that these partners may already be represented on the Local Strategic Partnership. It indicates the need to establish a local 'child poverty partnership' but suggests that it need not be a new group. A report will be taken to Cabinet with options for governance in Hartlepool.

14 How will the Child Poverty Strategy be implemented?

The launch of the Child Poverty, Strategy Action Plan and Pledge marks a new phase in the local authority's ambition to further reinforce social inclusion and social protection as key policies within the Council. The Local Authority is committed to the new LAA targets and will continue to aim to eradicate child poverty by 2020. Formal adoption of this new social equality commitment will fulfil the pledge to go beyond the UK child poverty target and further narrow the gap, particularly in terms of health, education, employment and skills between the most affluent and poorest children and families in Hartlepool. The achievement of such ambitious targets depends on a shift in policies, practices and resources by all stakeholders who have a vested interest in widening the scope of anti-poverty measures.

Successfully reducing child poverty and meeting the LAA target NI 116, requires an increase in parental employment, improved uptake of benefits rate and an improvement of working parents' earnings. It is recognised that no single policy or strategy can achieve these outcomes. Even if they could, there would still be additional factors which would need to be considered as part of any anti-poverty measures being implemented including:

- developing parenting skills;
- targeted provision and services which support children and families in need, particularly disabled children, looked after children and care leavers, who have poorer life outcomes than their peers;
- the implementation of Teams Around the Schools which will ensure that children and families have a lead practitioner where appropriate and access to multi-disciplinary services which will avoid duplication;
- progress on reducing in-work poverty including improved access adequate, affordable childcare and uptake of in-work benefits including New Tax Credits;
- improving skills levels of parents to ensure they remain competitive in the labour market by providing direct links to mainstream training provision including Train 2 Gain; and

6.2
Appendix A

- supporting employers to offer meaningful employment for parents with suitable flexible working agreements that allow for acceptable levels of work-life balance.

Implementing the strategy requires determination from all partners to accept their responsibility for driving forward the activities in the action plan. The first section of the action plan contains key strategic actions that Hartlepool Borough Council will develop as the drivers for the implementation of a range of activities which will contribute to tackling child poverty. The action plan will be a dynamic document that will be regularly refreshed as some actions are achieved and other, new activities need to be included

Subject to decisions on governance arrangements, stakeholders from the eight themed groups of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and the Financial Inclusion Partnership and Children's Trust (who are key contributors to this strategy) will identify what key actions they wish to add to further enhance current activities to tackle poverty. These actions will contribute to the four themes identified by the Child Poverty Unit - Education Health & Family; Employment & Adult Skills; Financial Support; and Housing & Neighbourhoods.

The eight key LSP themed groups are:-

- Jobs & The Economy
- Lifelong Learning & Skills
- Health and Wellbeing
- Community Safety
- Environment
- Housing
- Culture Leisure and Community Learning
- Strengthening Communities

Plus contributions from

- Children's Trust
- The Financial Inclusion Partnership.

15 How will stakeholders be consulted on the Strategy and Action Plan?

It will be vital to raise awareness of child poverty within public arenas such as Neighbourhood Action Plan Forums, Youth Forums, LSP and sub-groups of the LSP, including the Economic Forum which has membership from community representatives and business leaders. It is hoped that challenging and debating perceptions of child poverty may positively influence work on a range of strategies and action plans that will lead to the long term eradication of child poverty.

Within the relevant awareness raising events, residents and agencies will be informed of:

- background to the emergence of the Child Poverty agenda;
- the complexities and consequences of child poverty to the individual and wider community;
- the preferred definition of child poverty;
- the role and aim of the Child Poverty Pledge, Strategy and Action Plan;
- the Borough Council commitment to partnership working;
- details of pooled resources between local agencies and review of existing activity which will contribute towards this strategy;
- determination of partners potential contribution to the strategy and action plan;
- review of baseline data and performance against targets relating to child poverty; and
- review of national best practice strategies and activities to tackle child poverty.

16 Sustainability

The local poverty partnership (as required by forthcoming legislation) and the working group that supports it will be required to consider sustainability as a key agenda item throughout the lifetime of the Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan. As previously stated, to reduce child poverty will require the commitment of partners to allocate additional resources or 'bend' existing provision and develop innovative and new ways of working. There will be a need to identify where current services to tackle child poverty exist and where duplication occurs so that the commissioning process can be developed through the Children's Trust which will bring about sustained and systemic change. It is anticipated that the current strategy and plan will provide sound evidence based knowledge to design a future plans to reduce child poverty which are sustainable through core funds and improved usage of available resources and provision.

The partnership and working group will bring agencies together to ensure improved collaborative working across multi-disciplinary teams. This joined up working will provide agencies with the opportunity to pool resources and services through the new LAA and Multi-Area Agreement process and arrangements. It will strengthen existing work between services to identify suitable tendering opportunities to secure external funding including European and Single Programme Funding through the Tees Valley City Region. As part of the ongoing strategic arrangements with the private and third sector, partners will be supported to identify additional funding to contribute to improving parental employment rates and reducing child poverty which are not accessible to the public sector, for example, BIG Lottery. This joint activity across the sectors will strengthen sustainable development.

In addition, partners will be expected to continue to design sustainable programmes to tackle complex issues which help alleviate the risk of poverty for adults in later life including Family Intervention Programmes, NEET reduction programmes and teenage pregnancy initiatives. Partnerships which have been successful in bringing significant investment into the town will be encouraged to exploit links to large scale regeneration projects which will

Appendix A

provide direct job opportunities to the priority groups (including lone parents) as shown within the action plan through section 106 agreements and Targeted Recruitment and Training clauses.

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6.2 Appendix B

Hartlepool Borough Council – Town Wide Child Poverty Action Plan

Action Plan

- a. Strategic Actions**
- b. Education, Health & Family**
- c. Employment & Adult Skills**
- d. Financial Support**
- e. Housing & Neighbourhoods**
- f. Local Authority Strategic Actions**

Key Theme Partnerships

- 1. Economic Forum
- 2. Lifelong Learning & Skills Partnership
- 3. Environment Partnership
- 4. Culture, Leisure & Community Learning
- 5. Strengthening Communities Partnership
- 6. Community Safety Partnership
- 7. Health & Well-being Partnership
- 8. Housing

Plus contributions from

- 9. Children's Trust
- 10. Financial Inclusion Partnership

6.2 Appendix B

Strategic Actions

Action	Responsibility	Outputs to be achieved	Deadline	Links – plans/targets	Progress
Enhanced working between local services to ensure child poverty is central to organisational planning and commissioning of services.	Chief Executive, Hartlepool Borough Council Chair of the Child Poverty Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All key partners to review Pledge, Strategy and Action Plan; The establishment of a multi-agency Child Poverty Working Group 	Documents to be sent out June 2009	Community Strategy, Local Area Agreement (LAA), Children and Young People Plan and Economic Development Strategy LAA Target – NI 116, NI 117, 151, NI 153	Pledge signed by key stakeholders at Children's Trust February 2010. Interim working group established.
The establishment of a multi-agency Child Poverty Working Group.	Chair of the Child Poverty Working Group;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of Child Poverty Working Group Agree Chair Agree Terms of Reference Quarterly meetings Report to the Children's Trust on the performance of the Action plan on a quarterly basis Annual Report to the Children's Trust and key 	June 2009	Community Strategy, Local Area Agreement (LAA), Children and Young People Plan and Economic Development Strategy LAA Target – NI 116, NI 117, 151, NI 153	Interim working group in place and meeting approx 6 weekly. Report to Cabinet on governance issues April 2010.

6.2 Appendix B

Action	Responsibility	Outputs to be achieved	Deadline	Links – plans/targets	Progress
Complete a needs assessment of child poverty with local partners as required by the Child Poverty Bill.	Chair of the Child Poverty Working Group;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work closely with Corporate Strategy Team and key partners to improve co-ordination and target work to tackle poverty effectively. 	October 2010	Community Strategy, Local Area Agreement (LAA), Children and Young People Plan and Economic Development Strategy LAA Target – NI 116, NI 117, 151, NI 153	
Raising awareness of complex issues and sharing best practice between partner organisations;	Chair of the Child Poverty Working Group;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Poverty Summit organised. Chair to attend LSP themed groups, partner meetings and NAP Forums to raise awareness. 	June 2010	Community Strategy, Local Area Agreement (LAA), Children and Young People Plan and Economic Development Strategy LAA Target – NI 116, NI 117, 151, NI 153	
Identify and train Child Poverty Champions across all theme partnerships.	Chair of the Child Poverty Working Group;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To agree terms of reference of CP Champions in Working Group To develop Child Poverty Champion training To offer LA and partner staff opportunities to undertake training and become CP Champions 	August 2010	Community Strategy, Local Area Agreement (LAA), Children and Young People Plan and Economic Development Strategy LAA Target – NI 116, NI 117, 151, NI 153	

6.2 Appendix B

Action	Responsibility	Outputs to be achieved	Deadline	Links – plans/targets	Progress
Actions on child poverty prioritised within the Hartlepool Borough Council Corporate Plan.	Chair of the Child Poverty Working Group;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To liaise with the Corporate Strategy Team to insert child poverty actions within the corporate plan. 	March 2010	Community Strategy, Local Area Agreement (LAA), Children and Young People Plan and Economic Development Strategy LAA Target – NI 116, NI 117, 151, NI 153	Complete

6.2 Appendix B

Education, Health & Family

Action	Responsibility	Outputs to be achieved	Deadline	Links – plans/targets	Progress
Delivery of the 'On Target' project which will provide skill and learning opportunities for young people with mental health problems	Patrick Wilson Hartlepool Borough Council	Funding from Connexions Service. In-kind support from MIND, jobcentre plus, Hartlepool connexions, economic development, sports development and Hartlepool Football Club	31 March 2010	Prepare learners for intermediate labour market (ILM) interviews May 2009 Interview for the ILM June 2009 Bid for additional funding through sports development September 2009	Complete
Economic Forum					
To raise awareness in schools and colleges of the available provision that is targeted at those young people aged 14 to 19 years who are at risk of being/or who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	Martyn French	<p>Going Forward providers to visit schools and colleges to promote the benefits of work and training.</p> <p>Design of a DVD which promotes The Going Forward NEET reduction project.</p> <p>Additional Keeping in Touch Worker to be employed by Connexions and Tees Valley Works to target NEETs.</p>	<p>September 2009</p> <p>December 2009</p> <p>December 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Strategy Child Poverty Strategy NEET Reduction Strategy 	Complete

6.2 Appendix B

Environment Partnership					
To deliver the Schools Environmental Action Initiative which aims to educate and raise awareness of sustainable lifestyles.	Helen Beaman	<p>All Hartlepool schools to be part of the Schools Environmental Action Initiative by 2011</p> <p>All schools to gain the national Ecoschools Silver standard as a minimum</p>	March 2011	Climate Change Strategy NI 185	

6.2 Appendix B

Culture, Leisure and Community Learning					
To continue (in line with Government policy) to deliver free swimming for under 16s	Pat Usher	Number of free swims to Under 16s: Yr 1 - 97,000 Yr 2 - 100,000	March 2011	Community Strategy Child Poverty Strategy	
To promote the concessionary rates available via the Active Card for eligible Hartlepool residents.	Pat Usher	Marketing and promotional events	March 2010	Community Strategy Child Poverty Strategy	
To continue to develop the Libraries partnership working with Sure Start, and NHS Hartlepool to promote literacy for children and their parents.	Graham Jarritt	Outputs % children 0-3 receiving BookStart packs @ 9, 18 & 36 months early year story sessions p.w. Children Completing summer reading challenge 2009	March 2010	Community Strategy Child Poverty Strategy	Bookstart 100 % receipt 10 x early years story sessions each week 973 children completed summer reading challenge 2009

6.2 Appendix B

To continue to work in partnership with schools to promote Family Literacy and Numeracy provision	Maggie Heaps	90 Families participating	July 2010	Adult Safeguarded Learning Plan	
To continue to work with a range of agencies to engage families in a range of informal learning	Maggie Heaps	200 families participating	July 2010	Adult Safeguarded Learning plan	

6.2 Appendix B

Strengthening Communities					
Ensure the participation of young people in a range of volunteering opportunities	HVDA	Numbers of young people participating in regular volunteering	March 2011	Make a positive contribution NI 6 (LAA)	HVDA delivers a national youth volunteering programme in Hartlepool, and currently places around 300 people a year into volunteering.
Support and improve the level of young people's participation in positive activities	Youth service John Robinson	Target for young people's participation to be set based on Tellus 4.	March 2011	Make a positive contribution (LAA) Corporate Plan, SC A10 (HBC)	
Ensure service providers are responsive to young people's needs	John Robinson Beth Haw kridge Tracey Herrington	Provide opportunities for young people to be involved in decision making processes, NA P's, locality Youth Forums etc.	March 2010	NI 5 (LAA) Community Network Improvement and Action Plan	1) Stakeholder group established for Children's Trust. 2) Young people on Scrutiny. Town wide school youth forum is linked to democratic processes via 1 & 2 above.

6.2 Appendix B

Children's Trust					
The needs of families living in poverty are prioritised in the Children & Young People's Plan	Children's Trust Manager	Actions addressing child poverty are included in the Children & Young People's Plan	Apr 2010 – review Apr 2011 – refresh of CYPP	Children & Young People's Plan PSA 9, PSA 14 NI 116	
Commissioning priorities include greater investment in early intervention and prevention for children, young people and families living in poverty and all partners are committed to this effort.	Children's Trust Board	Children's Trust Board to review Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan Commissioning priorities to be reviewed by partners as part of the Children and Young People's Plan refresh.	Apr 2011	Children & Young People's Plan Children's Trust Commissioning Strategy PSA 9, PSA 14 NI 116 NI 117	
All partners are committed to engaging with children, young people and families who are living in poverty, in the design and delivery of services which meet their needs	All Children's Trust Relevant Partners	Increase involvement of children, young people and families who are living in poverty on the Children's Trust operational group.	March 2011	Children & Young People's Plan Participation Strategy PSA 9, PSA 14 NI 116 NI 110	

6.2 Appendix B

Raise awareness of the impact of child poverty on educational opportunities and ensure that children are not stigmatised or excluded from any school-based activities because of low income.	Chair of the Child Poverty Working Group / Schools	<p>Awareness raising sessions delivered to the Children's Trust Board by the Child Poverty Working Group.</p> <p>Children's Trust Board to consider options including the budget implications of supporting children living in poverty to take part in school-based activities.</p>	<p>March 2010</p> <p>September 2010</p>	Children & Young People's Plan PSA 9, PSA 14 NI 116	Presentation to Trust Board November 2009.
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6.2 Appendix B

Health and Wellbeing Partnership					
Reduce Teenage Pregnancy	Khalid Azam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development of 'team around the school' to support young people to make positive life changes Support teenage parents in education and subsequent employment Support teenage parents to improve the health outcomes for their baby. 	LAA target - Be Healthy NI 112 Target - 35% Current Value - 11.7%	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Teenage Pregnancy Strategy. LAA Target –NI 112 Under 18 conception rate - % change since 1998 (BVPI 197)	The team around the school is now operational and a panel meets on a monthly basis. The Sex Relationships and Education continues in schools.
Implement IDEA Healthier Communities	Margaret Hunt	Awareness sessions on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefit Entitlement Awareness You and Your Heart Understanding Dementia Diabetes Domestic Abuse Drugs and Alcohol Fire Safety in the Home 	August 2010	IDEA Healthy Communities Action Plan	

6.2 Appendix B

Improve health of the population and reduce inequalities	Louise Wallace	<p>Ensure all get the messages about making healthy choices.</p> <p>LAA targets: NI 120a, All age all cause mortality rate – females</p> <p>NI 120b, All age all cause mortality rate – males</p> <p>NI 121, Mortality rate from all circulatory diseases at ages under 75</p> <p>NI 122, Mortality from all cancers at ages under 75</p> <p>NI 123, Stopping smoking-rate of self reported 4 week smoking quitters per 100,000 population aged 16</p>	April 2011	<p>JSNA</p> <p>Public Health Strategy</p> <p>LAA targets: NI 120 NI 121 NI 122, NI 123</p>	Public Health Strategy to be refreshed to continue work on Primary Prevention of Cardio Vascular Disease, early detection of cancer, smoking cessation and interventions to address Obesity.
Improve Fire Safety in the Community by effective partnerships	Dave Atkinson/Toni Simpson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target Winter Warmth Campaign • Continue to provide effective Community Wellbeing Activities 	March 2011	Cleveland Fire Brigade Strategic Plan	
Effective transition services	Sally Robinson/ John Lovatt	Strengthen Multi Agency Working Through the revision of the Transition Strategy	March 2012	Transition Strategy	

6.2 Appendix B

Safer Hartlepool Partnership					
To provide adequate services for the misuse of alcohol as experienced by individuals, their families and carers	PCT Louise Wallace	Commission Primary Care involvement aimed at hazardous and harmful drinkers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract brief interventions from GP practices in Hartlepool via DES arrangements Train Primary Care Staff re identification, triage and brief interventions Establish Register of Alcohol Users Identified in Primary Care	March 2011	Hartlepool Alcohol Strategy Community Safety Strategy	Resources for 2010/2011 have been secured for the provision of alcohol treatment services. A whole system review of the Alcohol Strategy is under way on a multi-agency basis to address the Red Flag as part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). There is a Health Scrutiny investigation into alcohol under way.
Achieve a 10 % reduction in number of young people stopped 3 times or more with alcohol	Sally Forth	Link the Straightline alcohol programme to the assertive outreach. Ensure that where parents do not support the engagement of their child onto the programme YP, and the YP continues to be stopped with alcohol, that referrals to parenting programmes are made	March 2010		Assertive outreach receives weekly reports of where YP have been stopped with alcohol. Target achieved - in 2008 85 young people were stopped 3 times or more with alcohol; in 2009 this had reduced to 47

6.2 Appendix B

Employment & Adult Skills

Action	Responsibility	Outputs to be achieved	Deadline	Links – plans/targets	Progress
Actions to improve residents' participation (particularly parents) in positive activities with education, employment and training at the heart of all service delivery;	Patrick Wilson Employment Development Officer Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of commissioned programmes that deliver employment and training opportunities for residents (particularly parents). 	March 2010	Community Strategy, Local Area Agreement (LAA), Children and Young People Plan and Economic Development Strategy LAA Target – NI 116, NI 117, 151, NI 153	Economic Development chairs regular quarterly meetings with Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) Jobs and the Economy partners. This meetings allows for partners to considers how best to engage with residents and progress them onto employment and training programmes.

6.2 Appendix B

Economic Forum					
To improve tenants engagement with Jobsmart and Hartlepool Works partners including participation in positive actions such as training and employment.	Caron Auckland	100 tenants to be engaged / 60 to complete training/ 40 to enter into a positive outcome.	March 2010 and ongoing thereafter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Strategy Child Poverty Strategy NEET Reduction Strategy 	Economic Development and Housing Hartlepool are currently developing a number of programmes to engage with Housing Hartlepool tenants. Alongside this, Economic Development is providing employment outreach support to the Housing Options Centre where tenants are being encouraged to consider employment and training opportunities.

6.2 Appendix B

Delivery of seminars outlining 'Work and Families' legislation including flexible working conditions.	Sheila Watson	Complete two 'Work and Families' Seminars	March 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Strategy • Child Poverty Strategy • NEET Reduction Strategy 	Seminars to be planned after April 2010 in line with availability of funding and changes in employment legislation.
To raise awareness of the Future Jobs Fund to ensure that parents can access these employment opportunities.	Kim Williams	<p>Marketing and promotional events arranged across Hartlepool</p> <p>FJF Team to work with Jobcentres to promote FJF</p> <p>Marketing Event at Historic Quay.</p> <p>Ongoing promotional activity.</p>	<p>September 2009</p> <p>28 and 29 September 2009</p> <p>March 2010</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Strategy • Child Poverty Strategy • NEET Reduction Strategy 	Since September 2009, marketing events have been organised and there has been excellent attendance by eligible residents. Further events are taking place throughout March 2010 and beyond to ensure all eligible residents are aware of the programme.

6.2 Appendix B

Development of new partnership project between Jobcentre Plus and Hartlepool Working Solutions to enhance the support to existing Incapacity Benefit Claimants to help them access employment and training.	Diane Martin	TBC	March 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Strategy • Child Poverty Strategy • NEET Reduction Strategy 	The success project was established in June 2009 in partnership with JCP, Shaw Trust, REED in Partnership and is lead by Economic Development. This programme has been very successful in engaging clients on IB or other sickness related benefits to provide pathways to employment.
To enhance working relationships between Children's Services and Economic Development to identify young people and their families who are at risk of remaining and/or becoming economically inactive.	Antony Steinberg	TBC	March 2010 - Regular youth working group meetings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Strategy • Child Poverty Strategy • NEET Reduction Strategy 	Economic Development continues to deliver the Going Forward NEET reduction programme and Connect2Work. The latter works with the whole family unit to move individuals towards becoming economically active.

6.2 Appendix B

Preparation of an information guide for employers outlining legislation for working parents and carers and guidance on best practice.	Sheila Watson	Completion of booklet for employers	November 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Strategy • Child Poverty Strategy • NEET Reduction Strategy 	Information currently being collated. Draft booklet to be produced to reflect changes in legislation.
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6.2 Appendix B

Lifelong Learning & Skills					
Deliver Managing Community & Voluntary Organisations (MCVO) Level 2 and 3 courses to develop the skill levels of local volunteers	Karen Milburn Skillshare NE	Partnership Support Team Neighbourhood Element Funding	March 2010	MCVO Level 2 commenced – MCVO Level 3 commenced -	
To engage residents in training and learning to equip them with vocational skills	Maggie Heaps	500 residents to gain a qualification	July 2010	LAA Community strategy	

6.2 Appendix B

Culture, Leisure and Community Learning					
To continue to develop with Job Centre Plus and Adult Education, the Employability Skills Programme in Central Library and provide venues for adult learning in libraries	Graham Jarritt	Outputs No of Employability/job seeker sessions held each week Number of regular adult learning programmes held 04/09 – 03/10 Number of non recurrent courses and events held 04/09 – 03/10	March 2010	Community Strategy Child Poverty Strategy	5 per week. (4 x adult, 1 x job centre plus) 21 15
To provide volunteering activities in a range of services including Museums, Tall Ships and Arts and events to develop skills and improve employment prospects.	David Worthington, Michelle Daurat, Maggie Heaps	250 residents to participate in volunteering	March 2011	Community Strategy Child Poverty Strategy	254 volunteer applications received to 15 th March 2010. Approx 200 positions offered to 15 th March 2010 to mainly Hartlepool residents.
To encourage participation in informal learning	Maggie Heaps	1200 residents to access learning	July 2010	Community Strategy	

6.2 Appendix B

To provide volunteering activities in a range of services including Museums, Tall Ships and Arts and events to develop skills and improve employment prospects.	David Worthington, Michelle Daurat, Maggie Heaps	250 residents to participate in volunteering	March 2011	Community Strategy Child Poverty Strategy	254 volunteer applications received to 15 th March 2010. Approx 200 positions offered to 15 th March 2010 to mainly Hartlepool residents.
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6.2 Appendix B

Strengthening Communities					
Widen knowledge within the community (including marginalised groups) around the issues of child poverty and worklessness	Community Network and Economic Forum Tracey Herrington	Numbers of community members attending awareness raising sessions Monitoring of feedback	March 2011	Community Network Improvement / Action Plan 2010/11	

6.2 Appendix B

Health and Wellbeing Partnership					
Ensure Employment schemes are targeted towards child poverty particularly people with Learning Disabilities/Mental Health who have children	John Lovatt	Key performance indicators: NI 146 – Adults with learning disabilities in employment NI 150 – Adults in contact with secondary Mental Health in employment	April 2011	Business Plan Key performance indicators: NI 146 NI 150 Valuing people now guidance	

6.2 Appendix B

Safer Hartlepool Partnership					
Improved access to appropriate education, training and employment opportunities for rehabilitating offenders in the community	Chris Catchpole/Gemma Mulpetre/Eric Morgan	Develop stronger links with providers of Education, Training and Employment services to gain access to appropriate Education, Training and Employment opportunities for those offenders stabilising in drug and alcohol treatment and those reducing their offending behaviour. Link to 'Designing Out Crime' Initiative.	March 2010	RoRT Action Plan	Structured Day Care Service due to be introduced on 1 April 2010 with referral routes into ETE services. Designing Out Crime Initiative accepting referrals from the RoRT and exploring ways to expand on the initial success of the scheme. Carrying item forward into 2010/2011 RoRT Action Plan for further development.

6.2 Appendix B

Financial Support

Action	Responsibility	Outputs to be achieved	Deadline	Links – plans/targets	Progress
Environment Partnership & Children's Trust					
Develop and implement a town-wide school's uniform re-use scheme (based on good practice from a Throston Primary School initiative)	Fiona Srogi Children's Trust Board/Schools	All schools offering a uniform exchange/bank service appropriate to their school/community	Development Plan to be produced by end Oct 2009 6 schools to be approached re scheme by end Dec 2009 12 schools to be approached by end March 2010	Every Child Matters Tees Valley Waste Management Strategy National Waste Strategy Children and Young People's Plan PSA 9, PSA 14 NI 116	Three schools have included in their eco school action plan to 'investigate the possibility of setting up a reuse uniform scheme' but none have done so, so far. The scheme was has been advertised is the Green Schools newsletter 1 st Edition and again in the second newsletter. The poster and 'how to set up...' guide were taken to the Eco Schools network meeting on the 17 th March 2010 where 22 schools were present.

6.2 Appendix B

Culture, Leisure and Community Learning					
The Adult Education will target people in disadvantaged areas and provide transport and childcare to help individuals participate in courses.	Maggie Heaps	30 residents to be supported	July 2010	Community Strategy Child Poverty Strategy	
To provide opportunities to rent allotments at low rates to encourage grow your own vegetables and gardening for health	Chris Wenlock	Work towards maintaining allotment tenancy rates at or above 95%	March 2011	Community Strategy Allotment Strategy Child Poverty Strategy	

6.2 Appendix B

Strengthening Communities					
Improve the take up of youth opportunity / capital fund by young people in deprived areas	Peter Davies	Numbers of young people who have benefited from Youth Opportunity / Capital Fund	March 2010	LAA NI 110	70 groups applied of which 46 were successful. A total of 5,439 young people have benefited from the funds, many of whom are from deprived areas.
Increase numbers of groups (working with young people) who have accessed HVDA's grants	Community Network / Grants team	Increased take up of grants given to Voluntary & Community Sector groups who work with children and young people	March 2010	CN Improvement and Action Plan	
Provide opportunities for young people to improve their financial inclusivity	Financial Inclusion Partnership Credit Union Carol Jones	Numbers of young people opening up a credit union account	March 2010	Improving financial inclusion (LAA)	
Empower young people through the use of participatory budgets	John Robinson Elizabeth Haw kridge	Support and feedback to be given by NDO's and CN Monitor spending of PB budget in the three locality youth forums (quarterly) until 2010	March 2010		

6.2 Appendix B

Children's Trust & Health & Wellbeing Partnership					
Actions to support those low income families that are entitled to working tax credits and as a result are not entitled to Free School Meals.	Children's Trust Board/Schools	Children's Trust Board to consider options including the budget implications of providing support to low income families entitled to working tax credits for schools meals.	September 2010	Children & Young People's Plan PSA 9, PSA 14 NI 116	
Consider the impact of fuel poverty on child poverty.	Children's Trust Board Louise Wallace/Margaret Hunt	A strategic direction for addressing fuel poverty is agreed Coordinate key fuel poverty actions	Apr 2010 March 2012	Regional Fuel Poverty Strategy Children & Young People's Plan PSA 9, PSA 14 NI 116	Presentations on the importance of Fuel Poverty have been given to the Children's Trust Board and the Cabinet. The Local Authority and the PCT have invested in fuel poverty initiatives through the Energy Savings Trust and the Hart Warmers Campaign.

6.2 Appendix B

Financial Inclusion Partnership					
To develop and deliver a series of multi-agency HFIP Money Matters Roadshows	Lead: HFIP Partnership Development Officer Carol Jones Supported by: HBC Community Engagement Officer	Minimum of 8 events delivered in community venues throughout the borough	2 events in 2009/10 6 events in 2010/11	LAA Outcome 32 – Improving Financial Inclusion	
Increase adult membership of Hartlepool Credit Union Ltd (HCUL) Moneywise Community Banking	Lead: Hartlepool Credit Union Ltd Carol Jones Supported by: HFIP Partnership Development Officer & HBC Community Engagement Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend a minimum of 8 promotional events in community venues throughout the borough to promote HCUL membership Increase adult membership by 10% Deliver educational & collection sessions to parents & other adult carers via Children's Centre network throughout the Borough 	2 events in 2009/10 6 events in 2010/11 by 310311 Begin in January 2010	LAA Outcome 32 – Improving Financial Inclusion	

6.2 Appendix B

Increase junior membership of Hartlepool Credit Union Ltd – Moneywise Community Banking	Lead: Hartlepool Credit Union Ltd Carol Jones Supported by: Hartlepool Financial Inclusion Partnership- Partnership Development Officer & HBC Community Engagement Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend a minimum of 8 promotional events in community venues throughout the borough to promote HCUL membership Increase junior membership by 10% Deliver educational & collection sessions via Children's Centre network throughout the borough Continue & extend school educational and collection service (subject to availability of funding) 	2 events in 2009/10 6 events in 2010/11 by April 2011 Begin in January 2010 Secure funding by April 2010	LAA Outcome 32 – Improving Financial Inclusion	
Raise awareness of FIN/CP and increase take-up of benefits including Council Tax/Housing/Special Reductions & Discretionary awards	Lead: HFIP Partnership Development Officer Carol Jones Supported by: HBC Community Engagement Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver and attend a minimum of 8 promotional events in community venues throughout the borough Give presentations to Resident Associations and community based groups throughout the borough 	2 events in 2009/10 6 events in 2010/11 4 in 2009/10 6 in 2010/11	LAA Outcome 32 – Improving Financial Inclusion	

6.2 Appendix B

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased take up of 'special' Council Tax reductions eg Disabled, Carers, Mentally impaired clients 	200 new households receiving support by April 2011		
Increase awareness of free debt & money advice and access to financial services e.g. Money Made Clear initiative etc	Lead: HFIP Partnership Development Officer Carol Jones Supported by: HBC Community Engagement Officer & CU Mobile Advice Worker/CAB/WVARC etc.	Minimum of 8 events delivered in community venues throughout the borough	2 events in 2009/10 6 events in 2010/11	LAA Outcome 32 – Improving Financial Inclusion	
Increase awareness of the Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) and support available to victims	Lead: HBC Trading Standards Officer Regional ILMTeam Supported by: HFIP Partnership Development Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend a minimum of 8 events delivered in community venues throughout the borough Promote service through borough wide Operation Cleansweep 	2 events in 2009/10 6 events in 2010/11 9 Cleansweep programmes in 2009/10 9 Cleansweep programmes in 2010/11	LAA Outcome 32 – Improving Financial Inclusion	

6.2 Appendix B

Health and Wellbeing Partnership					
Ensure effective access to benefits	Alan Dobby	Continue to provide Benefit Checks for people who use social care.	Ongoing	NI 116	

6.2 Appendix B

Housing					
Promote energy efficiency measures for qualifying households	John Smalley	Assist a minimum of 500 households to receive energy efficiency measures	March 2011	Corporate Plan Outcome 24: Improving the quality of existing housing	

6.2 Appendix B

Housing & Neighbourhoods

Action	Responsibility	Outputs to be achieved	Deadline	Links – plans/targets	Progress
Environment Partnership					
Establish an allotments sub-group with emphasis on sustainable food production	Geoff Lilley	Allotment sub-group established	By end October 2009	Every Child Matters	

6.2 Appendix B

Safer Hartlepool Partnership					
Establish recognised referral route in accordance with HARP to gain access to appropriate accommodation for homeless offenders and provide support to enable them to sustain tenancies and improve basic living skills.	Chris Catchpole/Gemma Mulpetre	Provide support in relation to sustaining tenancies and basic living skills. Develop Referral Protocol	March 2010	RoRT Action Plan	Recovery and Reintegration within structured day care process will provide access to vulnerable persons panel and housing opportunities, along with support to assist with sustaining tenancies. Carrying item forward into 2010/2011 RoRT Action Plan for further development.
Investigate and develop new techniques that will assist in community engagement	Sally Forth Clare Clark Kim Walker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and promote existing inter-generational projects Identify gaps on inter-generational activity Create inter-generational projects where gaps identified. Identify and support bid submissions that will assist in engaging with communities 	October 2009 October 2009 March 2010 Throughout year Throughout year	outcome 14 Local Area Agreement	Intergenerational work recognised at the 2009 Pride in Hartlepool Awards. More schemes funded through the Reassurance Task group of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership

6.2 Appendix B

					<p>Cohesion Fund and N A P funding has been used to deliver a range of intergenerational projects in neighbourhoods this year. Initiatives have included themed / seasonal community events notably the Hartlepool Master Chef Competition and healthy events, and projects aimed at bringing parents and children together in a fun environment e.g. cookery skills, football etc.</p>
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6.2 Appendix B

Young People's involvement in Intergenerational work	Sally Forth	Invite representatives from the Youth Parliament / youth Clubs/ Neighbourhood Youth Forums to meetings; monitor those involved in intergenerational activities.	October 2009 Quarterly		There was youth representation at the ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR Task group meetings through the Youth parliament but these meetings have now been discontinued. Anti-social behaviour unit has volunteered to be part of the Young Inspectors programme and inspection took place 28 January 2010.
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6.2 Appendix B

Peer mentoring to be feature of prevention and support projects	Sally Forth	Explore Peer mentoring potential with a range of projects – e.g. FIP, FAST Assertive Outreach, Parenting Programmes	March 2010		Peer mentoring taking place through Barnardos parenting work
Provision of activities to coincide with peak times for anti-social behaviour	Beth Storey	Activities to be commissioned through the youth service	September 2009		Complete – new activities commissioned for Friday and Saturday nights.

6.2 Appendix B

Housing					
Enable development of affordable housing	Nigel Johnson		March 2010	Corporate Plan Outcome 23: Balancing Housing Supply and Demand Departmental Plan NI154; NI155	
Achieve decent homes standard in private sector housing	John Smalley	Provide grants and loans to assist owners to improve their homes to the Decent Homes Standard	March 2011	Corporate Plan Outcome 24: Improving the quality of existing housing	
Investigate the potential future demand for adaptations and funding sources (parents of children with disabilities)	John Smalley	Production of draft adaptations strategy	Feb 2010	Outcome 25: Changing Housing Needs and meeting the Housing Needs of Vulnerable People	Achieved
Ensure actions from the reviewed Homelessness Strategy are included in this Action Plan	Lynda Igoe	Following approval of the Homelessness Strategy by Cabinet any relevant actions will also be updated into this Plan	Strategy to be presented to Cabinet for approval June 2010 Update all relevant agreed actions by July 2010	Homelessness Strategy 2010-2015	



6.2 Appendix C

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHILD POVERTY PLEDGE

Together we will support Hartlepool Borough Council in sharing the Government's ambition to halve child poverty by 2010 and eradicate it by 2020 by:

- **Tackling the causes and consequences of poverty so that all children and young people have a good start in life, enjoy a fulfilling childhood with all the opportunities they need;**
- **Enabling families to break out of inter-generational cycles of deprivation through a variety of measures including intensive family support, access to appropriate financial assistance, training and employment.**

Together we will work with partners to ensure that the vision for Hartlepool is achieved and that we have:

'A society where all children and young people grow up free from deprivation and disadvantage and where birth and social background do not hold people back from achieving their full potential'.

We fully support Hartlepool Borough Council's ambition and endorse it by positive action to address child poverty.

We are a key agency committed to tackling the causes and consequences of child poverty within Hartlepool. Therefore, we will increase our activities to support children, young people and families living in poverty by working in partnership with all delivery agents from the statutory, private and third sector to achieve the local authority's six key objectives to:

- **Ensure that children that live in poverty are safe;**
- **Increase the parental employment rate;**
- **Improve skills levels;**
- **Increase the benefit take up rate, including in-work and out-of-work benefits;**
- **Prevent those at risk from falling into poverty;**
- **Where it is evident that a family is experiencing poverty take action to mitigate its effect.**

Name of Organisation.....

Name of Signatory.....

Date.....

CABINET REPORT

20 April 2010



Report of: Director of Child and Adult services

Subject: PERSONAL CARE AT HOME BILL

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Personal Care at Home Bill. The Government's intention is that it becomes law and is introduced from October 2010. The Bill proposes several changes that will impact on Adult Social Care.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

This report gives an overview of the proposals including the potential impact and risks in relation to the Council's budget and planning process.

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

The proposal for the provision of free personal care to some individuals who have the highest needs will have ramifications for adult social care budgets and income revenue.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non key – for information

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Cabinet – 20 April 2010

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

- 6.1 That Cabinet note the content of this report and the concerns raised.
- 6.2 That Cabinet agree to receive further reports as additional information becomes available.

Report of: Director of Child and Adult services

Subject: PERSONAL CARE AT HOME BILL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Personal Care at Home Bill. Free personal care for people with the highest level of needs living in their home was announced by the Prime Minister in September 2009. Consultation on the Personal Care at Home Bill to enable this to happen took place between 25 November 2009 and 23 February 2010. The Government's intention is that it should become law and be introduced from October 2010.
- 1.2 This report considers the potential impact for the Council and potential risks in relation to the Council's budget and planning processes.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In September 2009, the Prime Minister announced that free personal care for people with the highest level of needs living in their own homes would be introduced from October 2010.
- 2.2 On 25 November 2009, the Government published plans for consultation on the Personal Care at Home Bill which ended on 23 February 2010. The consultation sought views on proposals for regulations and guidance made under the Personal Care at Home Bill. The Bill proposes that councils in England with adult social services responsibilities should provide personal care free of charge in certain circumstances to people with the highest level of needs. Hartlepool Borough Council contributed to feedback on the consultation through the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services.
- 2.3 The Bill would amend the Community Care (Delayed Discharges etc) Act 2003 to remove restrictions on powers to make regulations requiring personal care to be provided free of charge for longer than six weeks in certain circumstances. The Government intends to use the powers in the Bill to make regulations that require councils to introduce free personal care at home.

- 2.4 It is anticipated that, subject to the passage of the Bill and the introduction of regulations, free personal care at home for those with the highest needs could be introduced from 1 October 2010. However, the House of Lords have proposed amendments to delay implementation until at least April 2011.
- 2.5 This move has significant financial implications. In the first half year, it is proposed that £210m will be made available nationally from central resources as a grant with the estimated remainder of the funding required, £125m, being found **from local government efficiency savings**.
- 2.6 In the first full year of operation £670m is expected to be required, made up of £420m central grant funding and **£250m found from local government efficiency savings**. The Government is clear that there is a finite amount of money available for this policy and so the offer will be targeted at those with the highest level of need.
- 2.7 The intention is that councils will no longer be able to raise charges through contributions on the personal care element of someone's care received **at home** if they fulfil the criteria. This will have a significant impact on income to the department.
- 2.8 During the 3rd reading of the Bill in the House of Lords in Feb 2010 some key amendments were made. These delayed the start of the service to at least April 2011 instead of October 2010. They also called on both houses to vote again on the bill, and to delay the implementation of the bill until ministers had proved its plans were affordable.

3.0 KEY PROPOSALS OF THE BILL

- 3.1 The Government believes the main benefits of the proposals would be as follows:
- Guarantee free personal care for 280,000 people nationally - including those with serious dementia or Parkinson's disease with the highest level of needs.
 - Protect the savings of the 166,000 people nationally, who currently get free care, from future charges.
 - Help around 130,000 people who need home care for the first time to regain their independence.
 - Where home adaptations or technology can increase a person's independence and reduce care needs, these would be offered.
 - It would allow £130 million nationally to be invested in re-ablement and prevention to help people to maintain their dignity and rebuild their confidence so that they can live at home for longer.

- Put prevention at the heart of the system, improving quality, empowering people, and saving the NHS and social care money.
- 3.2 In order to achieve this, the Government's key proposals are that regulations should specify that:
- The "qualifying service" required to be provided free of charge is the provision of personal care to a person at home.
 - Councils would be able to decide whether or not free personal care should be conditional on a person undergoing a period of intensive support or reablement for a period of up to six weeks before a formal community care assessment, including the assessment of personal care needs, is undertaken.
 - If councils decide that reablement should be a criterion then a person will not qualify for free personal care unless they have undergone reablement.
 - No charge will be raised for intensive support and reablement services.
 - The requirement for 'highest needs' will be assessed by councils with reference to Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) criteria. Statutory guidance is expected to be issued to councils to enable decisions to be made regarding who would be eligible. The need to require significant help with four Activities of Daily Living would also be specified in the regulations, though further guidance may supplement the regulations.
- 3.3 **"Personal Care"** means:
- a) Physical assistance given to a person in connection with: -
 - (i) eating or drinking (including the administration of parenteral nutrition),
 - (ii) toileting (including in relation to the process of menstruation),
 - (iii) washing or bathing,
 - (iv) dressing,
 - (v) oral care, or
 - (vi) the care of skin, hair and nails (with the exception of nail care provided by a chiropodist or podiatrist);
- Or
- b) The prompting, together with supervision, of a person, in relation to the performance of any of the activities listed in paragraph (a), where that person is unable to make a decision for themselves in relation to performing such an activity without such prompting and supervision.
- 3.4 Guidance will cover:
- details of the assessment process
 - eligibility criteria
 - examples of what an intensive intervention/reablement package could include.

4.0 ALLOCATION OF FUNDING

- 4.1 Three potential options for allocating the amount needed to meet individuals' personal care needs are outlined:
- setting an indicative amount based on the average costs of personal care of those with the highest needs;
 - setting an indicative range that would enable councils to calculate a precise figure based on the personal care assessment and local costs (reflecting the varying costs of care around the country); or
 - leaving councils to assess the costs of each individual's personal care needs on an individual basis.
- 4.2 The Government believes that this funding would guarantee support for approximately 400,000 people with the highest levels of need. This is broken down into:
- A guarantee of free personal care for approximately 280,000 people with the highest needs;
 - Re-ablement support for around 130,000 people who need home care for the first time to regain their independence. This figure is based on an assumption that the average cost of a re-ablement package is £1,000 per person.
- 4.3 After considering consultation responses and discussion with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS), the Department of Health has decided to allocate the grant using:
- a formula that combines an option for the older people's personal care component, calculated using the projected population aged 75+ in each local authority area minus those aged 75+ receiving domiciliary care all multiplied by the area cost adjustment,
 - the normal Relative Needs Formula (RNF) for the younger adult's component, and
 - the normal older people's RNF for reablement funding for older people.
- [A copy of the government's technical paper is included at **Appendix 1**
- 4.4 The provisional allocations for the Personal Care at Home grant from 1st October 2010 to 31st March 2011 for councils have now been published. This will be paid via Area Based Grant (ABG). Hartlepool's expected allocation is **£ 352,696**.

- 4.5 The expected contribution from local authority to fund Personal Care at Home is unclear. A national figure proportionate to the government grant is identified in paragraph 2.5. However this does not reflect the actual number of people who would meet the criteria which remains unknown. Whilst these initial estimates suggest what councils' contribution could be in a full year, in practice each Council will have to bear the gross cost less whatever grant is allocated. This means that the actual costs could be significantly higher than those estimated by Government, exposing the Council to a significant financial risk within an already extremely challenging budget position.

5.0 LIKELY IMPACT ON HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

- 5.1 There is the potential for the Bill to have significant implications for the Council. Organisations, such as the Local Government Association (LGA), County Councils Network (CCN) and Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) have already begun to assess the impact of these proposals.
- 5.2 Representations have been made to government through ADASS by the Director of Child and Adult Services expressing considerable concerns and issues:
- 5.2.1 The proposals are at odds with the shift to personalisation and personal budgets. Specifically they single out and incentivise personal care and care at home over other means of meeting needs and undermine the necessary development of fairer charging through contributions by directly funding some specific needs and forms of provision.
- 5.2.2 Furthermore those providing informal personal care at present are more likely to seek public funding if they are guaranteed no means test or contributions. This disincentive for informal care could prove both unhelpful and expensive.
- 5.2.3 Going by local data, the estimates of 200,000 receiving critical personal care at home may be an underestimate, but the projected increase in new cases may be understated. Also the estimated average figure of 6.54 hours of personal high care needs at home is probably very low.

5.2.4 There are significant difficulties in estimating the impact on the department's budget. There are three areas that impact on any modelling:

- Estimates of loss of income;
- Estimates of numbers of self-funders;
- Number of "switchers" from informal care and residential care.

At present all these are unknown quantities. However the burden is likely to be significant with little time to plan.

The efficiency saving suggested by the government is intended to result from increased use of home care and reduced use of residential care. This is already the Council's practice, so it is not clear where the anticipated efficiency saving will come from. This therefore becomes an unfunded pressure.

The Impact Assessment, which accompanies the Bill, also raises questions regarding the Government's estimations of the number of beneficiaries and total costs – stating an "inherent uncertainty" in a number of key assumptions. The nature of the assumptions on which this proposal is based is imprecise. There is also a lack of clarity on the criteria (number of people who will qualify as highest need.) This means that, at present, there are several unknowns so an accurate assessment of the merits of the proposal is problematic. Better modelling and greater clarity is needed to enable the impact on councils and vulnerable local residents to be assessed.

5.2.5 The administrative burden to councils has not been robustly calculated.

Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) guidance sets out an eligibility framework graded into four bands, [critical, substantial, moderate and low] which describe the seriousness of the risk to independence or other consequences if needs are not addressed. Councils are permitted to set the threshold for eligibility with reference to one of the four bands (eg substantial or higher). Self funders have not been included to date. These people will have to be assessed under the new systems as well as existing service users who will have to be re-assessed against the new criteria. If people meet the criteria for free personal care but also require other support they could still have to be assessed for their level of contribution, and so there would be no reduction in administrative costs.

5.2.6 The confusion caused by introducing criteria for free personal care.

The draft guidance proposes that free personal care should be available to those in the highest need (FACS critical). The numbers assessed as “critical” are known to be highly variable across the country and this will be seen as exacerbating a postcode lottery. People will also need to meet the criteria of requiring assistance with four ‘Activities of Daily Living’ using a tool that is yet to be defined. The personalisation agenda in Hartlepool Borough Council means that we are moving away from these kinds of questions in assessments, so there is a real danger of this policy working against the personalisation approach. This means that systems for assessment will have to be changed or new systems set up to assess this.

5.2.7 The additional workload from appeals and challenges.

Experience in Scotland, where there has been a similar system in operation for some time, suggests that the interpretation of “help with four Activities of Daily Living” has been the basis of many appeals, causing much confusion for people using services. Implementing this policy has the potential for as much concern, scrutiny and legal challenge as the Continuing Health Care criteria has done over many years.

5.2.8 Issues about the timetable for implementation.

This is a challenging timescale, which is not aided by the Government's intention to provide a national assessment tool in the summer of 2010. If the delivery of this tool is not timely then councils will struggle to deliver a working system for the expected start date of 1 October 2010. Furthermore this Bill would be implemented at the same time, as the Government would be taking forward its plans for a ‘National Care Service’. There needs to be greater clarity about how these proposals fit together.

5.2.9 Impact of the impending national election

There is no indication at this point in time what impact the impending national election will have on this policy. The bill represents the government's view. The other major parties have not indicated whether they would choose to pursue this policy. The Conservative Party have, however, indicated that they would not support at least one funding option for the proposed National Care service, which they have referred to as the death tax.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 That Cabinet note the content of this report and the concerns raised.
- 6.2 That Cabinet agree to receive further reports when the final position becomes available and there are responses to the amendments added to the Bill [in February 2010] which will now occur after the forthcoming election

CONTACT OFFICER: Phil Homsby, Strategic Commissioner (Older People)

Appendix 1

Personal Care at Home Grant Allocations – Technical Paper

Introduction

The Department of Health consulted on proposals for personal care at home for those with the highest needs between 25th November 2009 and 23rd February 2010. The consultation proposed three formulae for allocating the Personal Care at Home grant to councils:

- Option 1 - the adult social care Relative Needs Formulae (RNF), which include deprivation factors;
- Option 2 - an amended RNF formula without deprivation factors;
- Option 3 - A new formula based on analysis of the English Longitudinal Survey of Ageing (ELSA): it contains factors for age, Attendance Allowance, Pension Credit and limiting long-standing illness.

A fourth option was suggested by one council in response to the consultation. This formula relates to free personal care for older people only. It is calculated using the projected population aged 75+ in each local authority area minus those aged 75+ receiving domiciliary care all multiplied by the area cost adjustment.

After considering the consultation responses and discussing with Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS), the Department of Health has decided to combine options 4 and 1 to distribute the Personal Care at Home grant.

Funding For Reablement

The grant has two elements; reablement and personal care for those with highest need. We have split the funding for the new grant between reablement and personal care in line with the expected cost of these policies.

In a full year we expect the new burden on councils from the Personal Care at Home Bill to be £670 million, of which £130 million will be the cost of increased reablement provision. To determine the size of the reablement element of the grant in 2010/11 we multiplied the 2010/11 grant of £210 million as follows:

$$£210 \text{ million} \times 130/670 = £40.7 \text{ million}$$

We expect 85% of this funding to relate to older people. Table 1 below shows the funding for reablement by client group.

Client group	Reablement funding	Funding formula
Older people	£34.6 million	Older Peoples RNF
Younger Adults	£6.1 million	Younger Adults RNF
Total	£40.7 million	

This funding will be distributed to councils in proportion to the relative need formula for younger and older adults social care.

Funding for Personal Care at Home for those with the highest needs.

In total £21 million of the Personal Care at Home grant is intended for younger adults services and £189 million is intended for older peoples services. The table below shows the funding for free personal care at home by age group.

Total funding	Minus	Reablement funding	FPC funding	Funding Formula	
Older People	£189 m	<i>Minus</i>	£34.6 m	£154.4 m	Option 4
Younger Adults	£21 m	<i>Minus</i>	£6.1 m	£14.9 m	YARNF
<i>Total</i>	£210 m		£40.7 m	£169.3 m	

The personal care at home funding for older people is distributed using option 4, the formula suggested by one council and discussed with ADASS. The funding for personal care at home is distributed proportionately to the younger adults RNF formula.

Data

The adult social services RNF formula are calculated using the formula and data from the 2010/11 Local Government Finance Settlement. This is outlined in:

<http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1011/lgfrs/index.htm>

<http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0809/datadef1s.pdf>

Option 4 is calculated using :

- projected population aged 75 and over in 2010, from the Office for National Statistics.
- The number of clients aged 75 and over who were receiving community based services on 31st March 2009, by local authority from the provisional 2008-9 RAP data
- The 2010/11 area cost adjustment for older people.

The final 2010/11 Personal Care at Home grant allocations will be issued in early June once the final 2008/09 RAP data is available.

CABINET REPORT

20 April 2010



Report of: Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum

Subject: FINAL REPORT – CAR PARKING ON ESTATES IN HARTLEPOOL

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the findings and conclusions of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into 'Car Parking on Estates in Hartlepool'.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

- 2.1 The Final Report outlines the overall aim of the scrutiny investigation, terms of reference, methods of investigation, findings, conclusions, and subsequent recommendations.

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

- 3.1 It is Cabinet's decision to approve the recommendations in this report.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

- 4.1 This is a Non-key decision.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

- 5.1 The final report was approved by Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 19 March 2010. Cabinet is requested to consider, and approve, the report at today's meeting.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

- 6.1 Cabinet is requested to approve the recommendations outlined in section 7.1 of the bound report, which is attached to the back of the papers for this meeting.



NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

FINAL REPORT

CAR PARKING ON ESTATES IN HARTLEPOOL

April 2010

CABINET

19 April 2010



Report of: Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum

Subject: FINAL REPORT – CAR PARKING ON ESTATES IN HARTLEPOOL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the findings and recommendations of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum following its review of Car Parking on Estates in Hartlepool.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of 24 July 2009, Members determined their Work Programme for the 2009/10 Municipal Year. At this meeting Members highlighted that parking on residential estates had been raised by residents at the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums as an area of concern.
- 2.2 Therefore, it was agreed by Members of the Forum that as part of their work programme they would review car parking on residential estates, on a one meeting basis. Therefore, the approach adopted gathered evidence from the Council's Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department and members of the public.

3. METHODS OF INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 Members of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum met formally on 23 November 2009 to receive evidence relating to car parking on residential estates in Hartlepool. A detailed report of the issues raised during this meeting is available from the Council's Democratic Services.

4. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE AT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

Members of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum:-

Councillors: S Akers-Belcher (Chair), C Barker, J Coward, T Rogan, E Wright

Resident Representatives: J Cambridge and B Loynes

5. FINDINGS

- 5.1 In order to formulate conclusions and recommendations the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum heard evidence from the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods, the Traffic and Transportation Planning Manager and the Parking Services Manager. The findings are detailed below:-

Evidence from the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department

- 5.2 Members received a detailed report from the Parking Services Manager in relation to parking policy and enforcement. The report highlighted that Hartlepool, like many other towns and cities has areas of housing where there is either little or no available parking space or where space is available demand often exceeds supply. The Forum heard that in the 1950's and 60's the planners who designed the housing estates had no idea that vehicle ownership would extend to its current level and therefore did not prepare for the amount of vehicles now on the road.
- 5.3 In Hartlepool there are many areas of terraced housing which have no available residential off street parking with the alternative being on street parking which is either limited or over subscribed. As a result residents maximise alternative space and park on grass verges, footpaths and cycle ways. Parking on footpaths causes an obstruction for pedestrians and mobility users, whilst damaged footpaths can be dangerous and parking on grass verges results in unsightly damage to the verges and often flooding, as water cannot drain away effectively. The issue of flooding also raised the question as to the type of material used for the conversion of grass verges, driveways and lay-bys to prevent flooding. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods clarified that any new driveways would be block paved, however, lay-bys and grass verges would still to be tarmaced.

5.4 *Photographs A and B: Grass verges and tarmacing of grass verges*



Control and Management of Parking

- 5.5 Members of the Forum were interested to hear about the measures adopted by the Council for the control of parking. The Parking Services Manager informed the Forum that the control measures are dependent on the extent or main cause of the problem. Often the attraction of nearby facilities such as retail, commercial, leisure facilities and schools attract additional traffic and result in an increase of parking in residential areas.
- 5.6 Members were informed that where parking is required to be restricted to residents only and involves preventing other vehicles parking within the area a 'residents only' parking control scheme is an option. The scheme restricts parking of vehicles to permit holders only. This type of scheme can often reduce the volume of vehicles at a particular location. Although, where the permit control scheme does not manage the parking problems, the only option is often to design additional parking space, where possible, by converting existing grassed areas; widening the highway by tarmacing grass verges; and / or allowing extra parking by strengthening footpaths and allowing controlled parking.
- 5.7 Of particular concern to both Members of the Forum and residents were the operational hours of resident parking schemes. The scheme currently enforced Monday to Saturday, 8am to 6pm, allows permit holders to park when the scheme is in operation. However, outside of the specified hours, residents found that trying to find a parking space was extremely difficult. It was highlighted by the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods that if the operational hours of the scheme were to be extended this would likely lead to an increase in the cost of parking permits.
- 5.8 Parking outside of schools was highlighted by the Forum as an area of concern. Members were informed that to some extent parking outside of schools can be managed under road safety initiatives by preventing parking by traffic regulation orders. Although, this inevitably leads to vehicles parking in unrestricted areas which can lead to inconvenience for residents.

The Council actively works in partnership with schools to produce travel plans and examine alternative modes of transport as part of the safer travel programme. The Council's Parking Enforcement Team is actively involved in the schools education programme which is aimed at discouraging vehicle use outside of schools by encouraging walking, cycling or bus use.

- 5.9 The Forum questioned how parking was addressed through the design and planning process for the Building Schools for the Future Programme. The Traffic and Transportation Planning Manager highlighted that Officers from the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department worked very closely with those involved in the Building Schools for the Future Programme and looked at all the facilities and options for transport and parking. The Forum was advised that the schools that had been approved by the Programme had the best design option that was possible for the school and the surrounding area. Members agreed that all future schools need to have adequate parking and drop off facilities for parents and visitors in order to help alleviate parking problems at the schools and surrounding areas.
- 5.10 Members asked if the use of unused school land could be used for parking and drop-off areas. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods commented that any land that was not utilised for buildings was deemed as school playing field and the use of such land for any other use required Ministerial approval.
- 5.11 A further area which the Forum explored was the width of roads in particular on new housing developments. The narrowness of the existing residential roads presented problems for motorists when vehicles were parked on both sides of the road, in terms of manoeuvrability and restricting traffic flow to single file. Residents suggested that the introduction of one-way systems would allow the levels of parking to continue.
- 5.12 In terms of new housing developments, Members questioned how the width of roads on these developments was determined. The Traffic and Transportation Planning Manager informed Members that the Council has a design specification which includes the approved dimensions. A minor estate road is set at 4.8 metres, a distributor road at 5.5 metres, both of which are national standards and are adopted across the Tees Valley.
- 5.13 Members queried the actual parking provisions provided within new housing developments. Members were informed that parking provisions / controls are included within new developments as part of formal planning permission. The example referred to was Davison Drive / Warren Road, where a new housing development identified a need for additional parking facilities at the nearby shops. The provision of additional parking was incorporated into the scheme via a planning agreement and the developer had to provide the additional parking space as part of the residential scheme.

Funding and Budget Provision

- 5.14 In terms of budget provision for additional parking this is provided partly by the Local Transport Plan (£30,000) per annum and the Local Neighbourhood Action Plans. Members were informed that schemes are identified from requests via the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums / Ward Members or directly from residents. The North, South and Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forums consider individual improvement projects and manage and prioritise possible schemes with the cost being met from their Minor Works Budget. Although additional funding can sometimes be provided from the Local Transport Plan via highway improvement schemes. The examples cited of improvement schemes included Catcote Road, Duke Street and the rear of Stockton Road. The Forum highlighted that the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums have a small amount of funding to address parking issues with the funding not stretching very far.
- 5.15 The Forum noted that previous funding for traffic management and parking schemes had also been sourced from regeneration schemes such as Single Regeneration and New Deal for Communities, which provided a significant financial contribution. However, this funding is no longer an option. Where appropriate, and there is significant benefit to residents, a financial contribution may also be sought from Housing Associations. The Forum highlighted that there is definitely an opportunity for the Council to work in partnership with the Housing Association, Housing Hartlepool, to address the existing parking problems.

The Role of the Local Authority and Police in Enforcement

- 5.16 The Forum was pleased to receive evidence from the Parking Services Manager on parking enforcement and legislation. Parking enforcement is delivered by the Council's Parking Enforcement Team from legislation provided under civil law rather than criminal law. The Forum noted that much of the jurisdiction for traffic management and parking traffic regulations, previously a responsibility of the Police has transferred to the Council and is now controlled and enforced by the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers. However, some areas of obstruction do still remain under the jurisdiction of the Police and continue to be enforced under criminal law.

5.17 *Photographs C and D: Obstruction by parked cars / narrow roads*



- 5.18 Members of the Forum were very interested in how an obstruction is classified. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods notified the Forum that traffic regulation by the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers is very factual but the Police have a degree of discretion in their decision making. This is particularly evident when considering the obstruction of footpaths. An obstruction is a subjective matter for an individual Police officer. The Police who have responsibility for this type of enforcement will only take action against motorists if the vehicle blocks the footpath sufficiently to obstruct access. The Forum was informed that where parking restrictions or regulations exist, then action can be taken by either the Council or the Police. However, if there are no regulations in place, then it is for the Police to determine whether a parked vehicle does or does not constitute an obstruction.
- 5.19 The Forum expressed concerns that it was unclear to members of the public who to contact with a parking problem as there was uncertainty of what actually equated to a parking offence and the enforcement roles of the Council and the Police. As such, the Police and the Council both recognise that parking, and in particular the obstruction of footpaths is a major concern for members of the public and are both working on a joint initiative to raise awareness in this area. The Forum heard that joint publicity and enforcement visits had been carried out, with advisory notices issued where motorists had parked inconsiderately and caused an obstruction. The success of the initiative is being evaluated and the intention is that Civil Enforcement Officers will be able to issue advisory notices to motorists on behalf of the Police who will then issue Fixed Penalty Notices to the offending motorists.
- 5.20 The Forum noted that the Traffic Management Act has recently been amended to assist with the management of traffic and the control of parking. A new regulation of parking across dropped kerbs has been included under the Council's jurisdiction to improve pedestrian access and assist people with disabilities and mobility users. Members were informed that additional powers relating to moving traffic offences and the use of camera technology

will compliment the Parking Enforcement Team and enable additional enforcement once officially introduced by the Department for Transport.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum concluded:-

- (a) That the existing residential roads are narrow and when vehicles park on either side it becomes difficult for motorists to manoeuvre as it restricts traffic flow to single file. Therefore, one – way systems would alleviate this problem and allow the levels of parking on either side of the road to continue;
- (b) That resident parking schemes do help to alleviate parking problems, but outside the hours of operation parking still remains a problem;
- (d) That parking outside of schools is a major problem and needs to be looked at in detail when considering all future planning applications for school developments;
- (e) It was evident that both Members of the Forum and members of the public were not fully aware of the reporting arrangements for parking problems and who to contact should a parking issue arise;
- (f) That it was crucial to work with partner organisations, such as Housing Hartlepool to help alleviate the existing parking problems; and
- (g) That the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums have a small amount of funding to address parking issues with the funding not stretching very far.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum has taken evidence from the Council's Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department and Members of the Public to assist in the formulation of a balanced range of recommendations. The Forum's key recommendations to the Cabinet are as outlined below:

- (a) That the Council explores the viability of extending the operational hours of resident parking schemes to include evenings and weekends;
- (b) That the Council explores ways of publicising the reporting arrangements and points of contact for parking problems;

- (c) That the Council explores with Housing Hartlepool ways of providing off – street parking and the funding options available;
- (d) That the Council examines the possibility, where practicable, to introduce one-way systems for the residential streets where parking on both sides of the road restricts access to single file traffic;
- (e) That the Council as part of its planning process includes a requirement for all school developments to have adequate ‘drop – off’ and parking areas for parents and visitors; and
- (f) That the Council develops a process to monitor and review the impact of the Minor Works funding allocation available to each individual Neighbourhood Consultative Forum on a ward basis.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 The Forum is grateful to all those who have presented evidence during the course of the scrutiny review. We would like to place on record our appreciation for all those witnesses who attended the Forum. In particular the Forum would like to thank the following for their co-operation during the scrutiny review:-

Hartlepool Borough Council:

Dave Stubbs – Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Mike Blair – Traffic and Transportation Planning Manager

Phil Hepburn – Parking Services Manager

Julia Pinchen - Business Liaison Manager NDC Commercial Areas

Resident Representatives

External Representatives

Members of the public who participated and contributed at the meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum on 23 November 2009.

COUNCILLOR STEPHEN AKERS-BELCHER CHAIR OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

Contact Officer:- Laura Starrs – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive’s Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523 087
Email: laura.starrs@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (a) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Car Parking on Estates – Evidence from the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department – Covering Report' presented to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of 23 November 2009.
- (b) Report of the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods entitled 'Parking – Housing and Residential Areas' presented to Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of 23 November 2009.

CABINET REPORT

20 April 2010



Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: ACTION PLAN – CAR PARKING ON ESTATES IN HARTLEPOOL

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To agree an Action Plan in response to the findings and subsequent recommendations of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into 'Car Parking on Estates in Hartlepool'.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

- 2.1 The report provides brief background information into the 'Car Parking on Estates in Hartlepool' Scrutiny Investigation and provides a proposed Action Plan (**Appendix A**) in response to the Scrutiny Forum's recommendations.

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

- 3.1 To assist the Cabinet in its determination of either approving or rejecting the proposed recommendations of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum, attached as **Appendix A** is the proposed Action Plan for the implementation of these recommendations which has been prepared in consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s).

4. TYPE OF DECISION

- 4.1 Non-Key.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

- 5.1 The Action Plan and the progress of its implementation will be reported to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum in the new Municipal Year (subject to availability of the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s)).

6. DECISION REQUIRED

- 6.1 That Members of the Cabinet approve the Action Plan (**Appendix A refers**) in response to the recommendations of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into 'Car Parking on Estates in Hartlepool'.

Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO 'CAR PARKING ON ESTATES IN HARTLEPOOL' – ACTION PLAN

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To agree an Action Plan in response to the findings and subsequent recommendations of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into 'Car Parking on Estates in Hartlepool'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 To assist the Cabinet in its determination of either approving or rejecting the proposed recommendations of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into 'Car Parking on Estates in Hartlepool', attached as **Appendix A** is the proposed Action Plan for the implementation of these recommendations which has been prepared in consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s).
- 2.2 The Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum agreed that as part of their work programme they would review car parking on residential estates, on a one meeting basis. Therefore, the approach adopted gathered evidence from the Council's Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department and members of the public

3. ACTION PLAN

- 3.1 As a result of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into 'Car Parking on Estates in Hartlepool', the following recommendations have been made:-
- (a) That the Council explores the viability of extending the operational hours of resident parking schemes to include evenings and weekends;
 - (b) That the Council explores ways of publicising the reporting arrangements and points of contact for parking problems;
 - (c) That the Council explores with Housing Hartlepool ways of providing off – street parking and the funding options available;

- (d) That the Council examines the possibility, where practicable, to introduce one-way systems for the residential streets where parking on both sides of the road restricts access to single file traffic;
- (e) That the Council as part of its planning process includes a requirement for all school developments to have adequate 'drop – off' and parking areas for parents and visitors; and
- (f) That the Council develops a process to monitor and review the impact of the Minor Works funding allocation available to each individual Neighbourhood Consultative Forum on a ward basis.

3.2 An Action Plan in response to these recommendations has now been produced in consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s) and is attached at **Appendix A** which is to be submitted to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum in the new Municipal Year (subject to the availability of appropriate Portfolio Holder(s)).

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 Cabinet is requested to approve the Action Plan attached as **Appendix A** in response to the recommendations of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into 'Car Parking on Estates in Hartlepool'.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

NAME OF FORUM: Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Car Parking on Estates in Hartlepool

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: April 2010

	RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
(a)	That the Council explores the viability of extending the operational hours of resident parking schemes to include evenings and weekends;	Consider views of Permit user group members. Additional coverage would incur further staffing costs which would need to be recovered through increased permit charges. Last time this was considered residents were unwilling to pay for further coverage. Enforcement hours are currently Mon – Sat 8am-6pm	Staffing costs	Phil Hepburn	March 2011
(b)	That the Council explores ways of publicising the reporting arrangements and points of contact for parking problems;	Publicity to be improved via website, Council A-Z services , and Hartlepool Connect scripted service provision.	None	Phil Hepburn	March 2011
(c)	That the Council explores with Housing Hartlepool ways of providing off – street parking and the funding options available;	Contact Housing Hartlepool to access the possibility of funding towards the provision of hard verges or parking lay-bys on former Council estates	Possible contributions through Neighbourhood Forums, highway maintenance or LTP budgets.	Mike Blair	March 2011

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

NAME OF FORUM: Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Car Parking on Estates in Hartlepool

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: April 2010

	RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
(d)	That the Council examines the possibility, where practicable, to introduce one-way systems for the residential streets where parking on both sides of the road restricts access to single file traffic;	Where residents are in favour and where funding is available consideration will be given to the introduction of one-way streets and associated traffic calming	Funding for schemes will be required through Neighbourhood Forums, NAPs or LTP budgets.	Peter Frost	March 2011
(e)	That the Council as part of its planning process includes a requirement for all school developments to have adequate 'drop – off' and parking areas for parents and visitors; and	Conditions to be required through Planning process for the provision of "drop-off" facilities where this is physically possible, for all school developments.	Facilities will be funded as part of overall scheme by developers	Mike Blair	March 2011
(f)	That the Council develops a process to monitor and review the impact of the Minor Works funding allocation available to each individual Neighbourhood	The Neighbourhood Coordinators in each of the three forum area will take photographs before and after the parking scheme is delivered to demonstrate the impact within the community. During the financial year each	Use of existing funding provided to the Forums with additional contributions or joint funding from NAPs, Housing	Jon Wright	March 2011

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

NAME OF FORUM: Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Car Parking on Estates in Hartlepool

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: April 2010

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
	Consultative Forum on a ward basis. forum area is monitored by the Neighbourhood Manager with regard to the spend in each ward and a table is produced at year end to indicate the scheme type and costs per ward.	Hartlepool, LTP and SCRAPT		