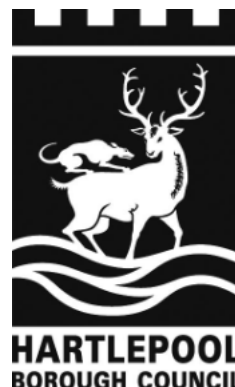


CABINET AGENDA



Monday, 7 June 2010

at 9.00 am

in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: CABINET:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond
Councillors Brash, Hall, Hargreaves, Hill, Jackson, Payne and Thompson

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 24 May 2010 (previously circulated)

4. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

No items

5. KEY DECISIONS

No items

6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 6.1 The Way Forward – Business Transformation Programme – *Assistant Chief Executive*

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

- 7.1 Government Announcement of £6.2bn Saving In 2010/2012 And Impact On Local Government – *Chief Finance Officer*

8. REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY FORUMS

- 8.1 Final Report – Hartlepool's Business Incubation System – *Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum*
- 8.2 Action Plan – Hartlepool's Business Incubation System – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*
- 8.3 Final Report – Climate Change And Carbon Management – *Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum*
- 8.4 Action Plan – Climate Change And Carbon Management – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*
- 8.5 Interim Report – Child Poverty And Financial Inclusion In Hartlepool – *Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee*
- 8.6 Scrutiny Investigation into 'Child Poverty and Financial Inclusion in Hartlepool' – Action Plan – *Director of Child and Adult Services*

CABINET REPORT

7 June 2010



Report of: Assistant Chief Executive

Subject: THE WAY FORWARD –
BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To review the Governance arrangements for The Way Forward – Business Transformation Programme

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

Cabinet have received a number of reports as part of the development of the Business Transformation Programme and the Membership of the Programme Board and other related issues are due for review

A Programme Board was established for the programme, based on the decisions of Cabinet with decision making on the programme retained by Cabinet.

Attached at Appendix A is the current Membership and Terms of Reference for the Programme Board which have been put in place to ensure the Governance arrangements for the programme are clear

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

The Business Transformation Programme is a corporate programme of strategic significance to the Council and falls within the remit of Cabinet.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non Key Decision

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Cabinet meeting on 7 June 2010.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Cabinet are recommended to reconsider the Membership and Terms of Reference for the Programme Board, taking into account the points raised in 3.5 in the main body of the report and subject to any comments or recommendations they wish to make.

To note the other inclusions in this report.

Report of: Assistant Chief Executive

Subject: THE WAY FORWARD –
BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To review the Governance arrangements for The Way Forward – Business Transformation Programme.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Cabinet have received a number of reports as part of the development of the Business Transformation Programme and the governance arrangements for the Programme have been in place since its inception.

3 GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

- 3.1 A Programme Board was established for the programme, based on the decisions of Cabinet with decision making on the programme retained by Cabinet.

- 3.2 Attached at **Appendix A** is the current Membership and Terms of Reference for the Programme Board which have been prepared to ensure the Governance arrangements for the programme are clear.

- 3.3 The current Programme Board comprises

- The Mayor
- Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency
- AN other Portfolio Holder (currently Adults and Public Health)
- Leaders of the Political Groups (x4)
- Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee
- Trade Union Representatives (x2)

- Chief Executive
- Assistant Chief Executive
- Director (this varies according to the agenda items)
- Programme Manager

- 3.4 The Portfolio Responsibilities have, following the recent election, changed. Cabinet are requested, based on these changes and any other factors they may wish to take into account to review the membership of the Programme Board.

- 3.5 In reconsidering the membership of the Board, Cabinet may wish to consider the following ;
- The Programme Board currently has three Cabinet members on it and Cabinet may wish to review this.
 - The Performance Portfolio now includes responsibility for Business Transformation and would be best placed to chair the Board
 - The leaders of two of the groups are now portfolio holders and Cabinet may wish to consider the option where Cabinet members are group leaders and or are on the Board to allowing groups to nominate alternative members.
- 3.6 The Terms of Reference for the Programme Board are believed to be appropriate at this stage and it is not envisaged that any changes to decision making responsibilities being held by Cabinet are required, however given the workload of the Board and the Programme, the meetings should be held monthly.
- 3.7 In addition to the potential changes to the Programme Board there are a number of other factors, as the Programme has evolved that it would be worth Cabinet noting and these are included below;
- It is important that as SDO Options reports are considered by Programme Board the observations and views of Programme Board are made clear to Cabinet when it is considering options available. To this end there will be a section included in Options reports to Cabinet that will encompass these points. It is envisaged that the Chair of Programme Board will ensure Cabinet are made aware of these matters
 - The basis and scope of the Programme, as discussed at Cabinet on 24th May 2010 will need to be revisited in the light of experiences to date and any likely implications in financial and service terms which emanate from the announcements on 24 May of initial budget cuts and the emergency budget which is due on 22 June 2010.

4 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 Cabinet are recommended to review the Membership and Terms of Reference for the Programme Board, taking into account the points raised in 3.5 above and subject to any comments or recommendations they wish to make.
- 4.2 To note the other inclusions in this report.

APPENDIX A

The Way Forward – Business Transformation Programme Programme Board

Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference

Membership

Membership of the Programme Board will be determined by Cabinet. Membership of the Board will be reviewed at least annually.

Alternates

Any member of the Programme Board who is unable to attend a particular meeting may nominate an alternate for that meeting. An alternative must be nominated on the basis that he/she fully represents the substantive member and can fully participate in the work of the Board.

Chair

The Chair of the Project Board shall be the Mayor

Frequency and conduct of meetings

It is envisaged that the Programme Board will meet on a bi monthly basis. There shall be an agenda for each meeting and this will be circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The Chief Executive's Management Team (CEMT) Support Officer will attend each meeting to produce draft Minutes. The Programme Manager will attend each meeting in an advisory capacity.

Role of the Board

The Programme Board has been created to maintain an overview of the programme. The management of the programme and its implementation is to be undertaken by the programme team. The Board will consider and provide input to the strategic direction of the programme and overarching priorities to inform and provide guidance on the programme, the realisation of benefits and the communications to stakeholders underpinning this.

Decision Making Processes

Programme matters requiring decisions by elected members will be taken by Cabinet (or the appropriate Portfolio holder if this is more suitable)

CABINET REPORT

7 June, 2010



Report of: Chief Finance Officer

Subject: GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF £6.2bn
SAVING IN 2010/2012 AND IMPACT ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Government's announcement to implement £6.2bn of savings in 2010/2011 and the impact on Local Government.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

- 2.1 The report provides details of the in-year savings announced by the Chancellor on 24th May, 2010, which total nearly £6.2bn. Local Government's share of these savings is £1.2bn. Local Government savings will be achieved by cuts in grants. The Government will be consulting on which grants will be cut over the next few weeks.
- 2.2 An initial assessment of the impact on Hartlepool indicates the in-year grant cuts will be in the order of £2m. A detailed strategy will need to be developed to implement the necessary actions at a local level as soon as details of the actual grant cuts are known.

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

- 3.1 Impact on approved 2010/2011 budget and policy framework.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

- 4.1 To note the report pending the announcement of detailed grant cuts by the Government.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

- 5.1 Cabinet, 7 June, 2010.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

- 6.1 It is recommended that Cabinet notes the report.

Report of: Chief Finance Officer

Subject: GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF £6.2bn
SAVING IN 2010/2011 AND IMPACT ON
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Government's announcement to implement £6.2bn of savings in 2010/2011 and the impact on Local Government.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The new Government have previously indicated its intention to begin reducing the budget deficit in the current year. This intention became a reality on 24th May, 2010 when the Chancellor announced details of £6.2bn of savings from Government spending in 2010/2011. The Chancellor also stated "£500m out of the £6.2bn will be used to improve Britain's growth potential and create a fairer society, by reinvesting in further education, apprenticeships and social housing".

3. DETAILED SAVINGS

- 3.1 The following table summarises the savings announced by the Chancellor by Government departments.

Department	£million
Department for Education	670
Department for Transport	683
Communities and Local Government	780
CLG Local Government	405
Business Innovation and Skills	836
Home Office	367
Ministry of Justice	325
Law Officers' Departments	18
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	55
Department for Energy and Climate Change	85
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs	162
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	88*
Department for Work and Pensions	535
Chancellor's Departments	451**
Cabinet Office	79
Devolved Administrations	704
TOTAL	6,243

* Includes £27m of savings from the Olympic Delivery Authority.

** Includes £320m saving from reducing the Child Trust Fund.

3.2 The above table indicates that Local Government will make a contribution of nearly £1.2bn towards the overall savings of £6.2bn across Government in 2010/2011 through reductions to individual grants to Local Authorities. This is the single largest departmental reduction and reflects the higher priority the Government are giving to other areas.

3.3 The reductions announced by the Chancellor are permanent cuts in funding and commence a period of public sector austerity.

3.4 The Government have indicated that the details of which grant will be reduced will be subject to further consultation. Although they have indicated the reductions in grants will be made up as follows:

Communities and Local Government Grants	£537m
Department for Education Grants to Local Government	£311m
Department of Transport Grants to Local Government	£309m
DEFRA Grants to Local Government	£ 8m

3.5 The Chancellor also indicated that the Government is also lifting restrictions on how Local Government spends its money by de-ring fencing grants totalling over £1.7bn in 2010/2011.

3.6 Finally the Government announced there will be no reduction to formula grant – the main Government grant to Local Authorities.

4. POTENTIAL IMPACT ON HARTLEPOOL AND PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 An accurate assessment of the impact of the £1.2bn grant reductions on Hartlepool will need to be undertaken once the Government provide specific details of those grants to be cut in the current year. In the meantime an initial assessment has been made based on Hartlepool's share of national grant pots and it is anticipated the grant cut will be in the order of £2m in the current year. The actual figure will depend on the grants which are cut and how these cuts are implemented at a detailed level.

4.2 The grant cuts announced by the Government for Local Authorities are fixed amounts for the financial year. These cuts will need to be achieved over the remainder of the financial year, once detailed figures for individual Council's are known. This will make the achievement of these reductions more challenging and effectively mean that higher in year reductions will need to be made.

4.3 In addition, the Government figures make no allowance for potential redundancy costs or other costs of terminating contracts early. These costs will need to be funded by the Council.

- 4.4 Experience of implementing the Management Structure savings demonstrated that whilst the pay back period for one-off redundancy costs/early retirement costs was relatively low, at about 1.3 years, these one-off costs exceed the year one savings by about 30%. Based on a grant cut of £2m this infers a one-off potential cost of £2.6m.
- 4.5 In relation to the de-ring fencing of grants of £1.7bn this is unlikely to have any significant practical benefit in the short-term as these grants are committed on employment and other contracts,. Therefore, in 2010/2011 any cuts which can be made on these grants are likely to be offset by redundancy/early retirement costs or costs of terminating other contracts early. A detailed review of these grants will need to be undertaken to see if there is any flexibility in the current year.
- 4.6 In addition to the adverse impact of the direct cuts in Communities and Local Government grants, the Council is also likely to be affected by cuts in funding from other Government departments which provide grants to Councils. At this stage this cannot be quantified and this issue will need reviewing as more information becomes available.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Chancellor's announcement of £6.2bn of cuts commences a period of public sector austerity. The Chancellor stated "this is the first time this Government has announced difficult decisions on spending. It will not be the last".
- 5.2 Local Government will have to contribute nearly £1.2bn towards the overall savings of £6.2bn in the current year through reductions in grants. Details of the specific grants to be cut have not yet been announced. An initial assessment indicates the Council could face a grant cut in the order of £2m in the current year. It is anticipated that further details will be issued by the Government before Cabinet meets on 7th June, 2010 and these details will be provided at the Cabinet meeting. This will enable Members to develop a strategy for implementing the necessary actions at a local level.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that Cabinet notes the report.

CABINET REPORT

7 June 2010



Report of: Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

Subject: FINAL REPORT – HARTLEPOOL'S BUSINESS INCUBATION SYSTEM

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the findings and conclusions of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into 'Hartlepool's Business Incubation System'.

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 23 April 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 13.1 of the report, which is attached to the back of the papers for this meeting.



REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

FINAL REPORT HARTLEPOOL'S BUSINESS INCUBATION SYSTEM

June 2010

CABINET
07 June 2010



Report of: **Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum**

Subject: **FINAL REPORT – HARTLEPOOL’S BUSINESS INCUBATION SYSTEM**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the findings of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum following its investigation into ‘Hartlepool’s Business Incubation System’.

2. SETTING THE SCENE

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 17 July 2009, Members determined their work programme for the 2009/10 Municipal Year. The topic of ‘Hartlepool’s Business Incubation System’ was selected as the second scrutiny topic for consideration during the current Municipal Year.
- 2.2 Responsibility for the monitoring and development of Hartlepool’s Business Incubation System lies with the Economic Development Section which is part of the Authority’s Regeneration and Neighbourhood’s Department.
- 2.3 Business Incubation has many different connotations and meanings, but UK Business Incubation the professional body for the business incubation industry defines business incubation as providing:-

“SMEs [Small and Medium Enterprises] and start-ups with the ideal location to develop and grow their businesses, offering everything from virtual support, rent-a-desk through to state of the art laboratories and everything in between. They provide direct access to hands on intensive business support, access to finance and experts and to other entrepreneurs and suppliers to really make businesses and entrepreneurs grow.”¹

¹ UK Business Incubation, 2009

3. OVERALL AIM OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 The overall aim of the Scrutiny investigation was to gain an understanding of the Business Incubation System Strategy and how the businesses in Hartlepool are benefiting from this support, with the ultimate aim of making Hartlepool more globally competitive.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

- 4.1 The Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny investigation were as outlined below:-

- (a) To gain an understanding of the Business Incubation System Strategy;
- (b) To seek the views of local businesses of the value of the Business Incubation System in Hartlepool;
- (c) To explore the work of other support agencies involved in the role of business incubation;
- (d) To assess the effectiveness of the Business Incubation System in Hartlepool in comparison to national / local baselines; and
- (e) To examine future development plans for the Business Incubation System.

5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

- 5.1 The membership of the Scrutiny Forum was as detailed below:-

Councillors R W Cook, S Cook, Cranney, Gibbon, A E Lilley, London, McKenna, Rogan and Wright.

Resident Representatives: Ted Jackson, John Lynch and Iris Ryder.

6. METHODS OF INVESTIGATION

- 6.1 Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum met formally from 5 November 2009 to 13 April 2010 to discuss and receive evidence relating to this investigation. A detailed record of the issues raised during these meetings is available from the Council's Democratic Services.

- 6.2 A brief summary of the methods of investigation are outlined below:-
- (a) Detailed Officer presentations and reports supplemented by verbal evidence;
 - (b) Holding Forum meetings at the Hartlepool Enterprise and Innovation Centres, two sites key to the Hartlepool Business Incubation System; and
 - (c) Verbal evidence from local businesses and support agencies.

FINDINGS

7 THE HARTLEPOOL BUSINESS INCUBATION SYSTEM STRATEGY

- 7.1 Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum met at the Hartlepool Enterprise Centre on 18 February 2010, where they received detailed evidence from the Economic Development Manager and the Principal Economic Development Officer (Business Services) surrounding the historical development of the Business Incubation System Strategy in Hartlepool.
- 7.2 The Forum was reminded that the development of a Business Incubation System was based on the Community Strategy Aim of:-
- “Develop[ing] a more enterprising, vigorous and diverse local economy that will attract new investment, enable local enterprises and entrepreneurs to be globally competitive and create more employment opportunities for local people”²
- 7.3 In reflecting on the Community Strategy Aim (see paragraph 7.2) Members were provide with the context of Hartlepool in 2000 having one of the lowest numbers of business start ups in the Tees Valley, the impact of the decline in traditional engineering and manufacturing companies and the challenges of a more globally competitive market.
- 7.4 In response to the challenges highlighted in paragraph 7.3, the Forum were informed that DTZ Piedad Consulting were commissioned, by Hartlepool Borough Council and Hartlepool New Deal for Communities, to produce an Incubation Strategy in 2002. The outcomes of this feasibility study resulted in the Hartlepool Business Incubation Strategy being formalised in 2003, with five main recommendations as detailed below³:-
- (i) That a ‘hot house’ development be created at the Town’s Queens Meadow site;

² Hartlepool Partnership, 2010

³ HBC, 2009

- (ii) That a major enhancement scheme take place at Brougham Enterprise Centre;
- (iii) That an overarching support mechanism be developed to incubate start-up and existing small businesses;
- (iv) That consideration be made towards community incubation, with any physical developments deferred until the main system is fully operational and integrated into the local economy; and
- (v) That the issue of move-on accommodation requirements be considered to ensure a flow through the system.

7.5 Members learnt that the production of the Business Incubation System Strategy by DTZ Pida, provided the necessary momentum for a partnership approach to realise the ambition of the Strategy. Through a combination of Council funding and finance available from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF), Single Programme and UK Steel Enterprises (UKSE) many of the main recommendations of the Hartlepool Business Incubation Strategy were delivered as follows:-

- (i) UKSE developed a 27,000 square foot Innovation Centre at Queens Meadow, which was opened in December 2005;
- (ii) The Brougham Enterprise Centre was enhanced and relaunched as the Hartlepool Enterprise Centre (see Picture1 below) in October 2006, providing a dedicated support for start-up and existing small business via 59 on site business units;



Picture1: Hartlepool Enterprise Centre

- (iii) The developments of the Enterprise and Innovation Centres created an environment that could incubate start-up and existing small

businesses, this was enhanced by the development of Enterprising Hartlepool, a small business network group fostering the sharing of good practice, alongside the suggestions by businesses of activities that may encourage even more entrepreneurial activity; and

- (iv) The enhancement of facilities at Newburn Bridge and the development of 40,000 sq ft business premises by Rivergreen Developments at Queens Meadow to supplement the move-on accommodation in Hartlepool.

8 VIEWS OF LOCAL BUSINESSES TOWARDS THE HARTLEPOOL BUSINESS INCUBATION SYSTEM

- 8.1 Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum were keen to hear the views of local businesses who had been involved with or through the Hartlepool Business Incubation System. When the Forum met on 4 March 2010, Members were delighted to hear evidence from the Managing Director at Hart Biologicals Limited.
- 8.2 The Managing Director from Hart Biologicals provided Members with an insight to the development of the organisation from its inception seven years ago, to its current siting at one of the premises developed by Rivergreen Developments at Queens Meadow.
- 8.3 Members were delighted that the Managing Director was extremely positive about the impact that the Hartlepool Business Incubation System had in developing the organisation and that the expansion of the business has resulted in over 50% of the company's turnover coming from export sales. This expansion had resulted in Hart Biologicals being one of the Hartlepool based company that contributed towards Hartlepool Borough Council's 'Access to Markets' programme. The Forum had already heard an explanation at their meeting of 18 February 2010, that the aim of 'Access to Markets', was to encourage the trading of local businesses beyond the boundaries of Hartlepool, therefore, drawing wealth into the Town.
- 8.4 In the development of Hart Biologicals, Members were informed that Hartlepool Borough Council had played a major part through initially sourcing premises at Usworth Road, before assisting with an expansion to Newburn Bridge for the fledgling company. The Council's Economic Development Team also supported the company at exhibitions, these being the most effective method of promoting Hart Biologicals' product. Members were responsive to the comments that it was disappointing that the larger move-on accommodation at Rivergreen was not operated by the Council, but the Forum recognised the important role of partnership working delivering the aims of the Business Incubation Strategy.

- 8.5 When the Forum met on 18 February 2010, Members received details of a case study of Big Studio Glass Design Limited. The Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum were informed that it was through the Business Incubation System that Big Studio Glass Design had managed to increase its profitability and ultimately expand the business. The business improvements in Big Studio Glass Design had mainly been achieved via the mentoring of the business by a process engineer, who advised more efficient ways of minimising glass wastage. The identification of a process engineer highlighted to Members the ability of Hartlepool's Incubation System to provide direct access to experts, a service that wouldn't necessarily be afforded to the company if there wasn't an Incubation Business System in Hartlepool.

9 THE WORK OF SUPPORT AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE HARTLEPOOL BUSINESS INCUBATION SYSTEM

- 9.1 Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum recognised that in order to achieve the aims of the Business Incubation System, there was a requirement for a number of support agencies to work together in order to provide the specific areas of expertise that may help a start-up or existing small business enterprise.
- 9.2 When Members met at Hartlepool Enterprise Centre on 18 February 2010, they recognised that business in Hartlepool had benefited from not only the support provided by the Council's Economic Development Team, but also the support of agencies such as One North East, Business Link, Job Centre Plus, North East Chamber of Commerce and Owton Fens Community Association (OFCA).
- 9.3 The Forum meeting held on 4 March 2010 at the Innovation Centre enabled Members to hear detailed evidence from the Regional Manager of UKSE in relation to the support that UKSE provide to the Hartlepool's Business Incubation System.

- 9.4 The Regional Manager of UKSE provided Members with the historical development of UKSE since 1975 as the regenerative arm of British Steel and more recently Corus. It was the aim of UKSE to help those local economies where steel industries were based to respond to the changing global demand for steel. This had resulted in the development of the Innovation Centre by UKSE in partnership with the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit, One North East (ONE) and the Council (see Picture2 below).



Picture2: Hartlepool Innovation Centre

- 9.5 Members were particularly delighted to learn that the Managing Director of UKSE had highlighted Hartlepool as being one of the best Local Authorities to work with in terms of its proactive approach to the development and involvement with new and existing small businesses operating within the Business Incubator model. This was supported by the fact that the Innovation Centre in Hartlepool was the best performing Centre in UKSE's nationwide portfolio.
- 9.6 The Form was particularly interested to learn that UKSE operated easy in and out rental terms and were in the position of being able to offer financial support. His financial support supplemented the physical support provided through the Innovation Centre having meeting rooms, broadband internet connection and the use of a shared printing and gymnasium resource. Although it was recognised that UKSE did not operate the traditional incubator model, in that there was no maximum amount of time that a business could operate from the Innovation Centre. However, both Business Link and the Local Authority were instrumental in providing the interactive link that may enable a business to grow and move onto larger premises.

10 COMPARISON OF HARTLEPOOL'S BUSINESS ECONOMY TO NATIONAL AND LOCAL BUSINESS STATISTICS

- 10.1 In order to assess the impact of the Hartlepool Business Incubator System on the local economy and its comparison to North East and National figures, Members were provided detail statistical comparisons by the Economic Development Manager at their meeting of 4 March 2010.
- 10.2 Since the launch of the Business Incubation Strategy in 2002 Members were interested to examine the VAT/PAYE data, which demonstrated the strength of a local economy in creating and sustaining small businesses as highlighted in Table1 below:-

Table1: VAT/APYE Births per 10,000 adult population (16 plus) 2002-2007

Area	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 [#]
Hartlepool	25	29	31	36	39	48
Tees Valley	30	33	34	35	33	45
North East	33	36	37	37	34	43
Great Britain	52	56	59	57	52	62

[#] Changes to the recording of VAT/PAYE data lead to increases in this figure across all areas.

Source: BERR

- 10.3 Members were pleased to see that the data in Table1 indicated solid growth of businesses in Hartlepool and that the Town in recent years had out performed both Tees Valley and the North East. It was noted by Members that the 2007 figures were distorted slightly through the changes to the method of calculating VAT/PAYE; this had led to a positive impact on the figures. Members at their meeting of 4 March 2010 were advised that the 2008 figures had only recently been published and were currently being analysed, however, it was likely that these would reveal a fall in these figures as a result of the credit crunch and subsequent recession.
- 10.4 The Members of the Forum were particularly interested to see how sustainable newly born enterprises were in Hartlepool and Table2 below, demonstrated the ability of new enterprises to survive one or two years in operation:-

Table2: Percentage of newly born enterprises surviving 1 or 2 years

Area	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	1 yr	2 yrs	1 yr	2 yrs	1 yr	2 yrs	1 yr	2 yrs	1 yr	2 yrs
Hartlepool	92.7	78.0	93.3	77.8	94.2	76.9	96.5	78.9	92.9	No figures available
Tees Valley	91.9	77.2	94.9	78.2	94.0	78.3	96.8	80.5	93.9	
North East	92.3	77.3	93.5	76.9	93.6	79.2	96.7	80.1	94.5	
Great Britain	92.6	78.0	94.2	78.7	94.3	79.8	96.5	80.7	95.5	

Source: National Statistics

Members noted that the survival rate of newly born enterprises in Hartlepool had followed a similar to trends to those demonstrated in the regional, sub-regional and national figures.

- 10.5 In assessing all the evidence for the impact of the Business Incubator System in Hartlepool, Members recognised it was the number of working aged self employed people (shown below in Table3) which demonstrated the greatest change. From a low starting figure in 2001/02 the percentage of self-employed people in Hartlepool had nearly doubled by June 2009, outperforming both the Tees Valley and the North East.

Table3: Trend in % population of Working Age Self-employed

Area	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10
Hartlepool	3.8	3.8	4.0	5.7	6.4	7.4	6.7	6.7	6.8
Tees Valley	4.7	4.9	4.6	5.4	6.0	5.8	5.5	5.7	5.7
North East	5.2	5.6	5.4	5.8	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.3
Great Britain	8.6	8.7	9.0	9.1	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.1	9.1

Source: National Statistics

11 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR BUSINESS INCUBATION IN HARTLEPOOL

- 11.1 The Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum were interested in finding out what the future challenges and plans were that the Business Incubation System faced in Hartlepool. Recognising that although statistical evidence in paragraphs 10.1 to 10.4 highlighted the positive impact that the Business Incubation System had made to Hartlepool's business economy, Members were keen to see that although the model for business incubation seemed right, it would need constant updating, particularly as a result of the recent poor economic climate.
- 11.2 When the Forum met on 18 February 2010, Members were presented by the Economic Development Manager of the future strategies that were planned for the Business Incubation System. The following details highlight some of the key developments / challenges:-
- (i) With the capacity of the Innovation Centre at 100% occupancy and with there being a waiting list of interested businesses, UKSE with the support of ONE's Single Programme funding are planning to deliver a 20,000 sq ft extension to the Innovation Centre from June 2010;
 - (ii) Due to the scarcity of good quality 'move on' space for businesses that outgrow the Enterprise and Innovation Centres, Rivergreen Developments are planning to double the existing provision at Queens Meadow from 40,000 to 80,000 sq ft;

- (iii) The lack of sustainability of funding from sources such as the Working Neighbourhoods Fund and the Council's own budgetary pressures, means that business incubation will face funding as one of its more fundamental challenges in the future; and
- (iv) For sustained business incubation growth there is a challenge for the retention of graduates within Hartlepool by encouraging the entrepreneurial spirit of graduates or by the creation / attraction of businesses which meet graduate requirements.

12 CONCLUSIONS

12.1 The Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum concluded:-

- (a) That Hartlepool's Business Incubation System has played a major role in the development of sustainable local businesses that can help make Hartlepool more globally competitive;
- (b) That businesses involved through the Business Incubation System in Hartlepool highly value the proactive and face-to-face approach of Hartlepool Borough Council's Economic Development Team in helping them start-up and / or grow through the incubation model;
- (c) That the support and active participation of Hartlepool Borough Council in the Business Incubator System in Hartlepool was and has been a major contribution factor for the Innovation Centre being one of UKSE's best performing Centres in its Portfolio;
- (d) That there was some logical notion that the Council should be involved at all stages of the Business Incubation System, but that a partnership approach involving organisations such as UKSE and Rivergreen was currently the most efficient method of delivery;
- (e) That due to both the Enterprise and Innovation Centres being at full capacity there was a:-
 - (i) Demand for an increase in this provision, which maybe solved in the short term by the expansion at Queens Meadow led by UKSE; and
 - (ii) Requirement to respond to the lack of move on accommodation for businesses who were likely to out grow the Enterprise and Innovation Centre, which maybe solved in the short term by an expansion to facilities available at the Rivergreen development at Queens Meadow.

13 RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 The Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum has taken evidence from a wide range of sources 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 due to long-term sustainability problems of the Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) and the increasing pressure placed on the Council budget, that the Department:-
 - (i) Reviews where gaps are in financial provision with the aim of prioritising grant support aid; and
 - (ii) Seeks innovative ways of attracting sustainable income to support and develop the Business Incubation System in Hartlepool.
- (b) That in order to provide more premises for business incubation and move-on accommodation, that:-
 - (i) Where empty properties exist in the Town, investment is sought to convert them into appropriate facilities; and
 - (ii) The feasibility of utilising Section 106 Agreements for the development of appropriate facilities is investigated.
- (c) That local schools are encouraged to embrace incubator business opportunities through:-
 - (i) Invitation to businesses to link with local schools providing students with an insight into entrepreneurial activities; and
 - (ii) Investigating the role of local business representatives as e-mentors.
- (d) That a feasibility study be undertaken into promoting the support available through Hartlepool's Business Incubation System via exhibitions / stands in vacant shops.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee is grateful to all those who have presented evidence during the course of our investigation. We would like to place on record our appreciation, in particular of the willingness and co-operation we have received from the below named:-

Hartlepool Borough Council:

Stuart Green – Assistant Director, Planning and Economic Development

Antony Steinberg – Economic Development Manager

Mick Emerson – Principal Economic Development Officer (Business Services)

External Representatives:

Simon Hamilton – Regional Manager, UK Steel Enterprise

Alby Pattison – Managing Director, Hart Biologicals Limited

COUNCILLOR TREVOR ROGAN CHAIR OF THE REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

June 2010

Contact Officer: James Walsh – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive's Department – Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel:- 01429 523647
Email:- james.walsh@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were consulted or referred to in the preparation of this report:-

- (a) UK Business Incubation (2009) *What is Business Incubation?*, Available from: <http://www.ukbi.co.uk/index.asp?SID=222> [Accessed 20 October 2009]

- (b) Sanderson, D. (2009) *Business Incubation in Hartlepool: A Feasibility Study*, DTZ Pidea Consulting
- (c) Hartlepool Borough Council (2009) *Business Incubation System*
- (d) Hartlepool Partnership (2010) *Hartlepool Partnership – Priority Aims*, Available from:
http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/partnership/site/scripts/documents_info.php?documentID=361&pageNumber=2 [Accessed 11 March 2010]
- (e) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Hartlepool's Business Incubation System – Scoping Report' presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum of 5 November 2009.
- (f) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Hartlepool's Business Incubation System – Setting the Scene – Covering Report' presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum of 18 February 2010.
- (g) Report of the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods entitled 'Draft Scrutiny Report – Business Incubation' delivered to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum of 18 February 2010.
- (h) Presentation by the Economic Development Manager entitled 'Business Incubation' presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum of 18 February 2010.
- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Hartlepool's Business Incubation System – Business Evidence – Covering Report' presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum of 4 March 2010.
- (j) Presentation by the Economic Development Manager entitled 'Scrutiny Enterprise Brief' delivered to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum of 4 March 2010.
- (k) Minutes of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum of 17 July 2009, 5 November 2009, 18 February 2010 and 4 March 2010

CABINET REPORT

7 June 2010



Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: ACTION PLAN – HARTLEPOOL'S BUSINESS INCUBATION SYSTEM

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To agree an Action Plan in response to the findings and subsequent recommendations of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into 'Hartlepool's Business Incubation System'.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

- 2.1 The report provides brief background information into 'Hartlepool's Business Incubation System' 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 Regeneration and Planning 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 Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum at the first meeting of 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 Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into 'Hartlepool's Business Incubation System'.

Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO 'HARTLEPOOL'S BUSINESS INCUBATION SYSTEM' – ACTION PLAN

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To agree an Action Plan in response to the findings and subsequent recommendations of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into 'Hartlepool's Business Incubation System'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 To assist the Cabinet in its determination of either approving or rejecting the proposed recommendations of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into 'Hartlepool's Business Incubation System', 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 aim of the investigation was to gain an understanding of the Business Incubation System Strategy and how the businesses in Hartlepool are benefiting from this support, with the ultimate aim of making Hartlepool more globally competitive.

3. ACTION PLAN

- 3.1 As a result of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into 'Hartlepool's Business Incubation System', the following recommendations have been made:-
- (a) That due to long-term sustainability problems of the Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) and the increasing pressure placed on the Council budget, that the Department:-
 - (i) Reviews where gaps are in financial provision with the aim of prioritising grant support aid; and
 - (ii) Seeks innovative ways of attracting sustainable income to support and develop the Business Incubation System in Hartlepool.

- (b) That in order to provide more premises for business incubation and move-on accommodation, that:-
 - (i) Where empty properties exist in the Town, investment is sought to convert them into appropriate facilities; and
 - (ii) The feasibility of utilising Section 106 Agreements for the development of appropriate facilities is investigated.
 - (c) That local schools are encouraged to embrace incubator business opportunities through:-
 - (i) Invitation to businesses to link with local schools providing students with an insight into entrepreneurial activities; and
 - (ii) Investigating the role of local business representatives as e-mentors.
 - (d) That a feasibility study be undertaken into promoting the support available through Hartlepool's Business Incubation System via exhibitions / stands in vacant shops.
- 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 Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum at the first meeting of 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 Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into 'Hartlepool's Business Incubation System'.
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NAME OF FORUM: Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Hartlepool's Business Incubation System

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: June 2010

	RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
(a)	<p>That due to long-term sustainability problems of the Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) and the increasing pressure placed on the Council budget, that the Department:-</p> <p>(i) Reviews where gaps are in financial provision with the aim of prioritising grant support aid; and</p> <p>(ii) Seeks innovative ways of attracting sustainable income to support and develop the Business Incubation System in Hartlepool.</p>	<p>A review will be undertaken to take into account the existing grant provision across the region and emerging assistance through the Tees Valley Industrial Programme. Through the Tees Valley Finance for Business Group, issues about gaps in provision will be discussed and also opportunities for Hartlepool Businesses to integrate with Regional Funders will be developed.</p> <p>As a service, opportunities to develop the property portfolio will be sought which has the potential in the medium term to provide income which could be utilised to support Hartlepool's Incubation system</p>	<p>Minimal in terms of the review of financial assistance, which will be carried out in-house</p> <p>To be determined in terms of the property development</p>	Mick Emerson	<p>Review of financial assistance and creation of opportunities for integration with regional funders by 31/12/2010</p> <p>Development of the property portfolio is ongoing, but will not be in the short term due to the need to ensure the successful launch of the UK</p>

NAME OF FORUM: Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Hartlepool's Business Incubation System

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: June 2010

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
				Steel Enterprise development at Queens Meadow. Likely delivery date 31/03/2013.
(b)	<p>That in order to provide more premises for business incubation and move-on accommodation that:-</p> <p>(i) Where empty properties exist in the Town, investment is sought to convert them into appropriate facilities; and</p>	<p>SCRAPT monies have been allocated to this financial year to assist in the improvement of key vacant buildings. Agreement has been made that this funding will include the potential to offer improved rental terms to businesses introduced through the Incubation System</p> <p>Single Programme funding has been secured for the purchase and demolition of the Crown Buildings in Surtees Street with the potential of a new build centre in the future (subject to funding) which would effectively form the 3rd stage in terms of development for the Incubation Strategy.</p>	<p>No additional funding required as finance in place.</p> <p>No additional funding required as finance in place.</p>	<p>Mick Emerson</p> <p>31/03/2011</p> <p>Mick Emerson</p> <p>31/3/2011 for acquiring and demolition. In terms of new development see comment above in respect of the need to ensure the success of</p>

NAME OF FORUM: Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Hartlepool's Business Incubation System

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: June 2010

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
	(ii) The feasibility of utilising Section 106 Agreements for the development of appropriate facilities is investigated.	N/A		the new development at Queens Meadow before adding more incubation-type space to the market 31/3/2011
(c)	That local schools are encouraged to embrace incubator business opportunities through:-	The Tall Ships visit remains a conduit for the development of Enterprise within schools. In particular businesses will be requested to offer time into schools	No additional funding required as finance in place.	Mick Emerson By 30/11/2010 to include evaluation of the project

NAME OF FORUM: Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Hartlepool's Business Incubation System

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: June 2010

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
(i) Invitation to businesses to link with local schools providing students with an insight into entrepreneurial activities; and (ii) Investigating the role of local business representatives as e-mentors.	to look at more entrepreneurial activity. As a means of maintaining momentum, consideration of if a system of e-mentoring could be successful with the aim of piloting activity within one of the schools.			By 31/3/2011
(d)	That a feasibility study be undertaken into promoting the support available through Hartlepool's Business Incubation System via exhibitions / stands in vacant shops.	To ascertain the benefit of additional promotion, marketing materials will be included as part of the Indoor Market and the effectiveness of this will be monitored	No cost	Mick Emerson By 30/9/2010

CABINET REPORT

7 June 2010



Report of: Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum

Subject: FINAL REPORT – CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON MANAGEMENT

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 'Climate Change and Carbon Management'.

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 23 April 2010. Cabinet is requested to consider, and approve, the report at today's meeting.

6. DECISION REQUIRED

- 6.1 Cabinet is requested to approve the recommendations outlined in section 14.1 of the bound report, which is attached to the back of the papers for this meeting.



NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

FINAL REPORT

CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON MANAGEMENT

June 2010

CABINET

7 June 2010



Report of: Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum

Subject: FINAL REPORT – CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON MANAGEMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the findings of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum following its investigation into Climate Change and Carbon Management.

2. SETTING THE SCENE

- 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. The topic of 'Climate Change and Carbon Management' was agreed to inform a major in-depth Scrutiny Inquiry for the Forum's 2009 / 10 work programme.
- 2.2 Responsibility for the Council's response to the challenge of climate change and the Council's commitment to managing carbon emissions falls under the remit of the Environmental Standards Section which is part of the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department.
- 2.3 The Climate Change Act became law in 2008 and one of the key aims underpinning the Act is:-
- "To improve carbon management and help the transition towards a low carbon economy in the UK"*¹
- 2.4 To reach this goal Local Authorities are being challenged to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 34% by 2020, with a further target of an 80% reduction of CO₂ emissions by 2050.

¹ Defra, 1 December 2008

- 2.5 In conjunction with the Climate Change Act 2008, Hartlepool Borough Council also has a responsibility to work towards three National Indicators (NI) led by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) as detailed in Table 1 below:-

Table 1: Prepare for the Impacts of and Secure Local and Global Action to Tackle Climate Change

Code	NI	Aims
NI185	CO ₂ reduction from local authority operations	To measure the progress of local authorities in reducing CO ₂ emissions from the relevant buildings and transport used to deliver their functions and to encourage them to demonstrate leadership on tackling climate change.
NI186	Per capita reduction in CO ₂ emissions in the Local Authority area	To provide sector breakdowns for industry, domestic and transport emissions.
NI188	Planning to Adapt to Climate Change	Designed to measure progress in preparedness in assessing and addressing the risks and opportunities of a changing climate.

3. OVERALL AIM OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 To gain an understanding of Hartlepool Borough Council's response to the issue of Climate Change and identify what efforts the Council is making to manage its carbon emissions.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

- 4.1 The following Terms of Reference for the investigation were agreed by the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum on 17 August 2009:-
- (a) To gain an understanding of the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme (LACMP) and Hartlepool Borough Council's commitment to the LACMP;
 - (b) To examine the implications of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) to Hartlepool Borough Council;
 - (c) To review the initiatives aimed at reducing the use of energy resources by the Council;
 - (d) To seek the views of partner / external agencies on ways to meet the challenges of Climate Change and Carbon Management; and

- (e) To assess the awareness of climate change in the community and how its profile may be raised.

5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

- 5.1 Membership of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum for the 2009 / 10 Municipal Year was as outlined below:-

Councillors: S Akers-Belcher (Chair), C Barker, R Cook, J Coward, T Fleming, J Marshall, T Rogan, G Worthy, E Wright

Resident Representatives: J Cambridge and B Loynes

6. METHODS OF INVESTIGATION

- 6.1 The Members of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum met formally from the 17 August 2009 to 1 February 2010 to discuss and receive evidence directly relating to their investigation into 'Climate Change and Carbon Management'. A detailed record of these meetings is available from the Council's Democratic Services or via the Hartlepool Borough Council website.

- 6.2 A brief summary of the methods of investigation are outlined below:-

- (a) Presentations from Hartlepool Borough Council Officers which was enhanced with verbal evidence;
- (b) Written evidence from the Council's Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department;
- (c) Written evidence from the Mayor as Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Housing;
- (d) Written evidence from the Chair of Hartlepool's Environment Partnership;
- (e) Presentation from a representative from Middlesbrough Council;
- (f) Member attendance at a Climate Change Activity Session on 6 November 2009;
- (g) Focus Group held on 11 January 2010;
- (h) Written evidence from the North East Improvement and Efficiency Partnership;
- (i) Written evidence from the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit enhanced with verbal evidence;

- (j) Written evidence from the North East Climate Change Partnership enhanced with verbal evidence;
- (k) Written evidence from Friends of the Earth enhanced with verbal evidence; and
- (l) Written evidence from the Environment Agency enhanced with verbal evidence
- (m) Written evidence from the Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre enhanced with verbal evidence

FINDINGS

7. WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE?

Evidence from the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department

- 7.1 To start the investigation Members wanted to gain a general understanding of climate and the causes and effects of climate change. Members were informed by the Environmental Standards Manager that climate is the long term weather patterns in an area. This includes weather conditions, seasons and weather extremes like hurricanes, droughts or rainy periods. The main influence on climate is temperature and over the billions of years that the planet has existed the temperature has seen many fluctuations and with it the climate has also changed.
- 7.2 The Forum heard that the natural causes of climate change are:-
- (a) solar variations – slight changes in the amount of energy that is emitted by the sun;
 - (b) orbital variations – small changes in the way that the earth orbits the sun;
 - (c) ocean circulation – changes in the distribution of heat around the world is likely to disrupt ocean and atmospheric circulation, leading to large and possibly abrupt shifts in regional weather patterns; and
 - (d) volcanic eruptions – huge eruptions of ash and sulphur dioxide cause reflection of the sun and lead to cooling
- 7.3 There are also man made causes of climate change which contribute to the Greenhouse effect and cause global warming. The Greenhouse effect is, in part, a natural phenomenon and without it this planet would be too cold for life to exist. Sunlight passes through the atmosphere and the layer of gases surrounding the earth act like a blanket and slows the escape of the sun's energy which causes it to warm. However, human actions have caused the natural balance to be tipped, and as a result, the surface of the Earth is becoming increasingly hotter. The Forum noted that the main heat

absorbing gases in the atmosphere are carbon dioxide, for example burning fossil fuels; methane, for example, vehicles fuelled by petrol and diesel, nitrous oxides, for example cows and landfill sites; and CFC's, for example fridges and aerosols.

7.4 Global warming is causing the climate to change. Global warming causes planet wide increases in temperature, the impact will cause a profound effect on the world's different climate zones. For example, melting of icecaps; increased desertification; temperate regions will experience warmer, wetter winters, drier summers and more frequent storm events; and there will be an increased intensity and occurrence of hurricanes and storms leading to increased flooding.

7.5 Members were very interested to hear about the effects that climate change will have in the North east of England. The Forum was informed that it is expected that the North East region will experience the following changes as a result of climate change:-

- (a) warmer summers and winters;
- (b) wetter winters;
- (c) drier summers;
- (d) a rise in sea level; and
- (e) an increase in the frequency and severity of extreme weather events.

7.6 In terms of the implications and consequences of climate change, the Environmental Standards Manager outlined to the Forum, the following:-

(a) impacts on the natural environment:

- (i) increase in woodland productivity and extension of the grass growing season;
- (ii) amount of water needed to sustain crops;
- (iii) local species and habitats are in danger of being lost; and
- (iv) migratory behaviour will have impacts on over wintering bird populations.

(b) impact on the built environment:

- (i) winds are expected to increase in frequency and will result in a rise in storm damage insurance intensity;

- (ii) sea levels will rise causing increased coastal erosion, flooding of low lying areas, reduced tourism because of loss of coastal resorts;
- (iii) highways and rail infrastructures will all suffer from subsidence, flooding and drainage issues; and
- (iv) increased structural damage to buildings.

(c) impact on human health and wellbeing:

- (i) food poisoning cases are estimated to increase by 10,000 per year due to warmer weather;
- (ii) skin cancer is likely to increase by 5,000 cases per year, implications for outside workers;
- (iii) increase in diseases such as malaria; and
- (iv) heat related deaths are likely to increase from 800 to 2,800 cases per annum in the UK.

8. THE LOCAL AUTHORITY CARBON MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (LACMP) AND HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT TO THE LACMP

Evidence from the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department

- 8.1 In response to the impacts of climate change the Forum was pleased to hear about how the Council has responded to these issues. Members were informed that the Hartlepool Partnership signed the 'Hartlepool Declaration on Climate Change'. This is the local version of the 'Nottingham Declaration' which is the UK Local Government climate change agreement. In October 2007, Council Officers produced a Hartlepool Climate Change Strategy on behalf of the Local Strategic Partnership and worked in partnership with the other Tees Valley Authorities to produce a Tees Valley Climate Change strategy. In January 2009, the Mayor signed the Covenant of Mayors and committed to 'go beyond the objectives set by the EU for 2020, reducing the CO2 emissions in our respective territories by at least 20%'.
- 8.2 The Forum was informed that the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department is leading on various initiatives to combat and reduce the impacts of Climate Change including the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme (LACMP). The Environmental Standards Manager outlined to the Forum that in April 2009, the Council was accepted onto Phase 7 of the LACMP. Through the programme, the Carbon Trust provides support to help Local Authorities realise carbon emissions savings. Membership provides the Council with the opportunity to 'put our own house in order' so we can lead by example and encourage others in the community

to do the same. The management of the programme is through a Programme Board which provides a strategic overview. Board members include the Chief Executive and Cabinet Member, Councillor Peter Jackson. An essential element of the programme is the development of an action plan for realising carbon savings and embedding carbon management into Council services.

Evidence from the Mayor as Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Housing

- 8.3 The Mayor submitted written evidence to the Forum detailing how the Council is managing its carbon emissions, how the Council plans to meet future climate change challenges and specific initiatives aimed at reducing the use of energy resources used by the Council.
- 8.4 In terms of how the Council is managing its carbon emissions, the Mayor informed Members that a baseline has been established for carbon emissions resulting from Council services, as is required for National Indicator (NI) 185. The baseline year for this Indicator is 2008/09, meaning that for all future years, the Council will be able to calculate the percentage change in carbon emissions. Although this baseline is not a full carbon footprint, it does give an accurate assessment of emissions resulting directly from service provision, and includes the following sources:-
- (a) Energy and fuel use in buildings and by public lighting;
 - (b) Staff travel, including public transport and business mileage; and
 - (c) Fuel use by the Council's fleet of vehicles, including outsourced recycling services
- 8.5 The year on year comparison of data obtained for NI185 will be analysed and used to identify areas and services where the greatest savings can be made.
- 8.6 The Council is working hard to reduce carbon emissions resulting from its operations and is a participant in the Carbon Trust's LACMP, which will act as a driver to ensure a Council wide action on carbon reduction. An aspirational target has been set to reduce carbon emissions from Council services by 35% over five years, based on a 2008/09 baseline. This is a very challenging target, and sets out the commitment that the Council has to reducing its impact on the environment.
- 8.7 The LACMP guided the Council in the production of a Carbon Management Plan, which will be published in March 2010. The plan outlines the Council's vision for carbon management, and also proposes a number of projects that will contribute to the achievement of the 35% target. A Carbon Management Team has been established to deliver carbon savings across council services. The wide cross section of members on the team will ensure that carbon saving potential is maximised, and that awareness of the issues

surrounding climate change is raised amongst employees. A Carbon Management Programme Board, which includes the Chief Executive and Cabinet Member, offers strategic guidance and direction for the programme.

- 8.8 Another very significant benefit of reducing carbon is the cost savings that can result from reducing energy and resource use. The Council's Business Transformation Process will allow the Council to adopt structures, procedures and infrastructure to allow for large scale carbon/cost savings. Buildings rationalisation will make considerable cost/carbon savings possible in the medium term, and increase the efficiency of the workforce.
- 8.9 Members were informed that Display Energy Certificates (DEC's) show the energy efficiency of a building against a benchmark. All public buildings with a useful floor area of 1,000m or greater must display a DEC in a prominent place, so that visitors to that building are aware of its performance. The Council analyses results from DEC assessments to ensure that the lowest performing buildings are targeted for energy efficiency improvements.
- 8.10 In relation to how the Council plan to meet the challenges of Climate Change and Carbon Management a number of potential projects have been identified to ensure that challenging carbon reduction targets are met. A Rapid Assessment of Projects (RAP) Tool, provided by the Carbon Trust, has been used to make a brisk assessment of which projects will be worth pursuing further. The RAP tool has provided the Council with a number of potential energy efficiency projects, which will now be further assessed to identify the carbon and cost savings that will be possible.
- 8.11 A £40,000 Invest-to-Save programme has been allocated for energy efficiency projects. This will be used to fund efficiency improvements across the Council, and half of all savings will be returned to the programme to fund further projects. Projects with estimated pay back periods of less than 3 years will be prioritised. Projects have been identified and funded, so that savings will be available for re-investment in the 2010/11 financial year.
- 8.12 Various sources of funding will be sought to enhance the Invest-to-Save fund, and ensure that the level of investment in energy efficiency projects is great enough to allow the Council to achieve the challenging 35% carbon reduction five year target set under the LACMP.
- 8.13 A Climate Change Adaptation Strategy will be produced in early 2010, and will outline the risks that the Council will face in a changing climate. The strategy will put in place a number of procedures that will ensure coherent service delivery under a range of anticipated extreme weather events associated with climate change. The strategy will be the first of its kind amongst Tees Valley authorities, and will improve the resilience of the Council and its provision of services to the community.
- 8.14 The Mayor outlined a number of initiatives aimed at reducing the use of energy resources used by the Council. These are as follow:-

- 8.15 **Civic Centre Refurbishment** - Energy efficiency improvements are being incorporated into the Civic Centre refurbishment, and include significant changes to lighting and heating within the building.
- 8.16 **Public Lighting** - Energy efficiency improvements to street lighting have included the use of solar powered 'Keep Left' bollards, which produce their own energy on-site. LED units have been trialled, and a grant bid to the North East Improvement and Efficiency Partnership for approximately £50,000 has been accepted for the installation of LED lighting on Marina Way. LED street lights require considerably less energy than conventional bulbs, require less maintenance, and provide brighter white light that reduces the perceived fear of crime.
- 8.17 **Switch Off and Save Campaign** - Display Energy Certificate (DEC) scores are being analysed to identify the buildings that need the most urgent energy efficiency improvements. A staff education campaign, called 'Switch Off & Save' (S.O.S.) is currently under way, and will engage all staff via presentations to individual teams. Energy use in corporate buildings is currently being monitored to identify the buildings that should be prioritised for action under the S.O.S. campaign. The campaign will raise awareness of the areas where energy is currently being wasted, and offer practical solutions to improve energy efficiency at work. Follow up checks will be made to ensure that co-operation is being received by staff, following presentations to each team.
- 8.18 **SALIX Funding** - Salix provide interest free loans for energy efficiency improvements in the public sector. The Council has successfully applied for approximately £63,000 for the purchase and installation of various technologies to reduce energy use across its estate. In order to qualify for Salix funding, projects must have a payback period of less than five years, and applications must include a completed 'Project Compliance Tool' to ensure that this will be the case. The savings achieved through the use of technology will be sufficient to repay the initial loan.
- 8.19 **Schools Environmental Action Initiative (SEAI)** - The SEAI has achieved a great deal of success with the schools that have been involved. A second officer has now been employed through Neighbourhoods Working Fund monies to roll the initiative out to all schools, in order to ensure buy-in from all areas of the authority. Approximately half of all emissions associated with the Council originate from schools, and for this reason, it is vital that schools are engaged and encouraged to reduce energy and resource use. Energy use will be monitored in schools to identify areas of the school that could be made more energy efficient. Surveys are also being carried out to ensure that energy use outside of school hours is kept to a minimum. Assemblies and after school meetings will ensure that both staff and pupils are aware of energy efficiency issues, and act to reduce energy use.
- 8.20 **Transport** - The Council's fleet of vehicles is run on 5% biodiesel mix, meaning that there is a 5% reduction in the use of fossil fuel and also a reduction in carbon emissions. Low carbon vehicles are currently being

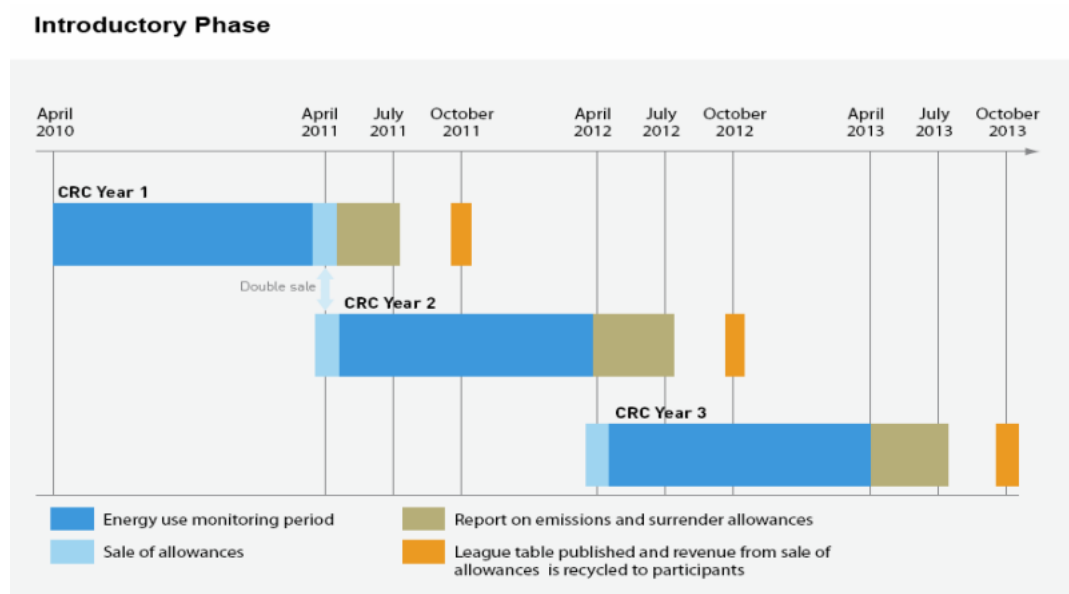
trialled to ensure that the fleet is running at maximum efficiency. The Council has recently trialled a 500cc diesel engine van, which can achieve in excess of 100 miles per gallon of fuel. Electric scooters are also being trialled to identify suitability for supervisors travelling to various sites around the borough. Safe and Fuel Efficient Driving (SAFED) training courses have been provided for staff in the past, and training will now be rolled out across the Council fleet. SAFED training improves fuel efficiency by an average of 10%. Business users will also be targeted to ensure that all business travel is done in an efficient manner.

9. THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CARBON REDUCTION COMMITMENT (CRC) TO HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

Evidence from the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department

- 9.1 Carbon is an increasing problem and due to the challenging targets that have been set, the Council is committed to the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) which began in April 2010. The Forum was informed that there will be a tax on carbon emissions from statutory sources and a financial penalty / reward for carbon saving performance. The Government's Low Carbon Transition Plan to begin in July 2010 is a comprehensive guide for UK carbon reduction. By 2020 there will be 7 million home energy make-overs, 40% energy from renewable sources; investment in and provision for electric vehicles; creation of 1.2 million green jobs; and a robust, low carbon economy.
- 9.2 The CRC is a mandatory emissions trading scheme for organisations using over 6,000 MWh to calculate the carbon footprint of energy use. Allowances are at £12 per tonne of CO₂ emitted with an annual league table recording performance with rewards / penalties for good / poor performers. The available allowances will decrease. The table below shows the timeline for implementation.

9.3 Table 2 – Timeline for Introductory Phase



9.4 Hartlepool's energy related emissions in 2008/09 equalled 15,309 tonnes, this did not include transport emissions. Through the Carbon Reduction Commitment it costs the Council £12 per tonne of CO₂. Therefore, 15,309 tonnes cost £183,708 in allowances. The following illustrates the reward / penalties in the first five years of the scheme:-

(a) Year 1: Reward/penalty = $\pm 10\%$

(c) Year 2: Reward/penalty = $\pm 20\%$

(c) Year 3: Reward/penalty = $\pm 30\%$

(d) Year 4: Reward/penalty = $\pm 40\%$

(f) Year 5: Reward/penalty = $\pm 50\%$

9.5 The value at stake will be linked to Hartlepool's performance against other organisations participating in the scheme.

9.6 The Forum raised the point that in order to help save energy all Council meetings should be held in rooms that are the correct size for their purpose and audience. For example, if it is expected that only a few people will be in attendance at a meeting then a smaller Committee room should be used, wherever possible.

10. THE INITIATIVES AIMED AT REDUCING THE USE OF ENERGY RESOURCES BY THE COUNCIL

Evidence from the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department

- 10.1 The Forum enquired about the examples of work that had been carried out by the Council or that is currently underway to reduce the carbon footprint of the Council. Officers from the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department outlined examples to the Forum along with a number of potential projects that will contribute to the Carbon Management Programme and associated strategies.
- 10.2 The Forum was informed that the link between climate change and carbon emissions that result from everyday actions is now widely considered by the scientific community as being undeniable. In order for the extent of devastating climate change related impacts to be minimised, it is vital that global action is taken to reduce carbon emissions. The United Kingdom has taken a global lead on tackling climate change, and has called on Local Authorities to influence communities in order to achieve challenging national targets. In order for Local Authorities to effectively influence others, it is important that they ensure that they are leading by example and setting the standard for carbon reduction.
- 10.3 The Council has made a commitment to reducing carbon emissions from its estate by supporting a number of national initiatives, including The European Union's Covenant of Mayors and the 10:10 Campaign, both of which challenge organisations to commit to go beyond national carbon reduction targets. The Council is also a member on this year's Carbon Trust Carbon Management Programme, which will offer support and guidance, and present opportunities for sharing of experiences and best practice with other authorities. The Carbon Management Programme has set an aspirational target to reduce carbon emissions by 35% over five years. A comprehensive Carbon Management Plan will be finalised in March 2010, and will form the basis of the Council's Carbon Reduction Strategy for the coming five years.
- 10.4 A Carbon Management Team has been established to reduce carbon emissions resulting from council operations. Members of the team were carefully selected to cover a wide cross section of council services. The team will be responsible for producing the Council's Carbon Management Plan. Strategic guidance is provided by the Carbon Management Programme Board, which includes the Chief Executive and Cabinet Member.
- 10.5 The Carbon Trust have provided a 'Rapid Assessment of Projects' (RAP) Tool, which gives a basic indication of the types of carbon saving projects that will give the most benefit for the Council. The results gained from the RAP Tool are estimates to be used as a guide only. It is intended that the RAP tool be used to identify potential projects that may be investigated further at a later date. Members of the Forum were shown the most desirable projects, based on outturns from the RAP tool, and includes estimated carbon savings, cost of implementation and likely typical payback period. The accuracy of these estimates cannot be relied on, and so further investigations will take place to identify the actual savings that can be expected. Various factors influence the effectiveness of each project

included in the RAP tool. For example, insulation will give greater savings in an inefficient building than in an efficient one, and so the RAP tool should be used as a guideline only.

- 10.6 The Carbon Management Team met on 9 October 2009 to discuss potential projects to carry forward as part of the Carbon Management Programme. A representative from the Carbon Trust facilitated a half-day Opportunities Workshop, which presented the group with a long list of potential projects. These were then prioritised with the use of an Ease/Effect Matrix. A list of prioritised opportunities was circulated to the Forum. The Carbon Management Team will now look to quantify potential savings that would result from those projects that were given the highest level of priority.
- 10.7 The Forum was informed that the Council is a partner of the Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership, which shares best practice on climate change related issues. The Council is also represented at North East Improvement & Efficiency Partnership (NEIEP) meetings.
- 10.8 The Climate Change Sub-Group of the Environment Partnership (a theme group of the Local Strategic Partnership), has recently been resurrected, and will now meet on a quarterly basis to discuss the ways in which the area can progress towards a low carbon economy. The Sub-Group includes representatives from across the borough.
- 10.9 An internal Climate Change Officers' Group has been established to raise awareness of the implications of climate change, and to ensure that there is a council wide approach to tackling associated issues. The group meets on a quarterly basis, and focuses on reducing the Council's carbon footprint, and adapting to reduce the impacts of climate change upon the authority.
- 10.10 Members were pleased to hear that the Council has worked with The Energy Saving Trust (EST) on the 1-to-1 Programme during 2008/09 to identify areas where energy efficiency improvements could be made. A meeting was held with the EST in early October 2009, and it is clear that a lot of progress has been made against the EST's recommendations, including participation on the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme. Further actions will follow in accordance with recommendations from the EST.
- 10.11 Energy efficiency improvements are not a new topic for the Council; for a number of years, projects have been undertaken to improve the efficiency of the Council. A very significant recent advancement that will allow energy savings to be maximised is the Business Transformation Process, which has seen the current five departments merge to form three. The Business Transformation Programme includes an element in relation to Energy Management and the establishment of an "Invest-to-Save" scheme, as outlined above, which will identify opportunities within the Council to improve its energy efficiency and produce a rolling programme of projects.

- 10.12 Reducing energy consumption not only reduces running costs, but, in most cases, improves working conditions which can increase staff productivity. Furthermore, the environmental benefits from reductions in carbon emissions and energy use can enhance organisational image and improve public relations. The Council is developing a Carbon Reduction Strategy which will incorporate energy in buildings policy and modern energy efficiency and minimising energy use methodologies. Invest-to-Save projects to improve heating and hot water controls and to install lighting controls offer real potential to achieve improved energy efficiency with pay back periods of less than 5 years.
- 10.13 It was highlighted to the Forum that Cabinet has agreed a £40,000 Invest-to-Save programme that will fund energy saving projects. Half of all savings made under the programme will be re-invested into further energy saving projects. Although this will go a long way towards reducing carbon emissions, it will be necessary to source and secure further funding to maximise carbon savings across the Council. The Council has successfully applied for an interest free loan for approximately £63,000 from Salix Finance, which is administering the £51.5m that was set aside by government in the last budget to help the public sector to improve energy efficiency in buildings. There are strict criteria for the types of projects funded by Salix, in order that the savings made through investment are sufficient to repay the loan in full. Various other sources of funding will also be sought.
- 10.14 Since the introduction of National Indicators (NIs) 185 and 186, The Council is in an excellent position to monitor, record and reduce its use of natural resources. NI185 refers to the emissions resulting from the use of energy from its own estate, and includes:
- (a) Gas and electricity usage in buildings;
 - (b) Electricity usage from street lighting;
 - (c) Fuel use from fleet vehicles;
 - (d) Fuel usage from other contractors for recycling; and
 - (e) Business mileage (private car mileage and public transport).
- 10.15 The baseline year for this National Indicator is 2008/09, meaning that at the end of each subsequent year from 2009/10, the Council will be able to identify carbon management performance.
- 10.16 A baseline has also been produced for the Carbon Management Programme. The template for this baseline includes a Value at Stake section, which outlines the potential energy and fuel savings that can be realised if the five year aspirational carbon reduction target of 35% is achieved. The model takes into account projected increases in energy prices and is a direct comparison against a 'do nothing' approach. The

financial savings that would be achieved through a 35% reduction would be highly significant.

- 10.17 A number of projects and activities have been implemented over recent years, with three main aims; to reduce carbon emissions; to reduce running costs; and to improve the overall efficiency of the workforce.
- 10.18 A summary of some of the major improvements that have taken place or are planned to take place were highlighted to the Forum, and are as outlined below:-
- (a) Civic Centre refurbishment – energy consumption in the Civic Centre is higher than in any other Council managed building. Energy efficiency regulations were introduced to the UK construction industry in 1985. As the Civic Centre was constructed prior to this, energy efficiency was not a major consideration in its design. The ongoing refurbishment of the building has energy efficiency improvement as a central element, and is indeed seen as a priority. Significant energy, carbon and cost savings have been and will continue to be realised as a result of the works being carried out, which include:
 - (i) Heating improvements – the current system relies on conditioning large volumes of fresh air. The new system will incorporate technology to utilise wasted heat from one part of the building to provide “free” energy to condition another part of the building. For example, if the South side of the building has a high solar gain and the units on that side are in cooling mode, part of the North side may be in shade and might require heating. The system will recover the heat removed from the units on the south side and release it as a heating medium to the units on the North side. The new heating system will also allow the removal of inefficient 2kw and 3kw electrical fan heaters, which have been used to assist in cold spots;
 - (ii) Lighting improvements - Replacement of the existing T8 (the ‘T’ represents tube diameter in eighths of an inch, and the lower the ‘T’ value, the more efficient the tube) switch start lighting system with a modern recessed modular dimmable luminaires utilising latest T5 lamp technology and standard high frequency control gear. These provide improved lighting conditions, use less energy, have lamps that last 60% longer, and comply with the latest T5 lamp technology system.
- 10.19 Various improvements have been made to public lighting, including the use of solar powered ‘Keep Left’ bollards and the trialling of light emitting diode (LED) street lights, amongst other improvements.
- 10.20 Members were informed that the Council has recently been awarded approximately £50,000 by the North East Improvement & Efficiency Partnership (NEIEP) for efficiency improvements to street lighting. This funding will be spent on the installation of innovative LED lighting units at

Marina Way. The new units use less energy and require less maintenance than existing units.

- 10.21 The Forum requested further information on street lighting from the Council's Highways Services Manager. Members were informed that in Hartlepool there are 15428 electrically powered units, 14309 street light columns, 550 illuminated signs, 329 bollards and 45 beacons.
- 10.22 In terms of lighting, the Council use approx 7,000 MWh per annum which costs the Council £528k in 07/08 but £600k in 08/09 therefore producing approximately 3,200 tonnes of carbon.
- 10.23 Some authorities have considered turning off lights, most recent was Bury Council but they reconsidered after consultation.
- 10.24 The Council are looking at energy savings, for example efficient street lighting units and also reduced wattage. The benefit of the new energy efficient technology is a reduction in power consumption. Three areas being developed are:-
- (a) Energy efficient units, the best example is LED, but further development is required;
 - (b) Reduction of burning hours – (turn off altogether – or turn on later, turn off earlier); and
 - (c) Dimming – reducing light levels at the least critical times.
- 10.25 In 2005 the Council's Highways section was the first service to be awarded the Green Star for converting to Green energy. The Council has implemented the following lighting schemes to save energy:-
- (a) introduction of a dimming arrangement from 100w to 70w between 00:00 and 05:00 (approx 12 lamps on the Headland Square scheme approximately three years ago). No negative feedback has been received;
 - (b) The Council introduced LED's in Belisha Beacons, reducing power consumption from 100w to 18w in approximately 20 locations across the town;
 - (c) Introduced the first solar powered Keep Left bollards (about a dozen on the recent Burn Road scheme);
 - (d) Introduced dimming from 60w to 45w between 02:00 and 05:00 and remote monitoring (approximately 13 lamps on Egerton Road scheme, June 2009);
 - (e) Trialling 2 LED Street Lamps;

- (f) Made an internal bid for £48k to replace the remaining 290 Mercury Lanterns – to reduce energy consumption from 94w to 55w;
- (g) Made bid to RIEP (Regional Improvement & Efficiency Partnerships) for £55k (£50k from REIP, £5k from the Council) to use to replace 172 90w SON lanterns with 22w PL Fluorescent units on Marina (This scheme will save approximately £205,242 in energy costs over the next 25 years; £54,480 in maintenance cost savings; and 684 tonnes of CO2 emissions);
- (h) Also made bid to RIEP for £70k to extend the use of LED lanterns on the Marina;
- (i) Introduced electronic ballasts (replacing wire wound ballasts) which gives an energy saving of 5 – 10% per unit;
- (j) Considering using new on/off switching regime (from 70/35 lux on/off to 35/18 lux on/off – saves approx 244 hours burning time per annum per lamp which equates to about 5.9% of the total);
- (k) Also replacing all 70w SON's and 55w SOX lamps with fluorescent white lights. Use of white light enables a reduction in the standard required;
- (l) All Keep Left bollards are made from recycled plastic and damaged ones are re-used; and
- (m) All lanterns now in use are now recyclable (older units are not and must be carefully disposed)

10.26 The Forum questioned whether there is a legal requirement for roads to be lit to a certain standard. The Highways Services Manager informed the Forum that there is and that plans to roll out white light are on hold until these standards can be met.

Initiatives aimed at Schools and Council Staff

10.27 Members were also interested to hear about how the Council engage with children and young people. The Forum was informed that the Environment Roundabout is an annual event that engages Year 5 primary school pupils in various environment related subjects, including sustainable transport, waste & recycling, biodiversity, responsible water use and climate change. Each of these scenarios has direct links to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and allows pupils to develop a strong understanding of the broader implications of climate change. Approximately 500 children took part in the event in 2010. Due to the success of the Environment Roundabout event, an event is currently being planned to engage secondary schools in environmental initiatives.

- 10.28 The Schools Environmental Action Initiative (SEAI) is supporting Hartlepool's schools to reduce their energy and resource use. Schools engaged in the past have reduced energy and water use by 2%. Funding has recently been secured to roll out the SEAI to all schools. Targets have been set to reduce energy and water use in two pilot schools by 5% during 2009/10 and 7% during 2010/11. St. Hilda's School achieved an impressive 23% reduction in energy use, and a 38% reduction in water use from 2007 to 2008.
- 10.29 A comprehensive analysis on energy and resource use was carried out at the Council's Leadbitter Buildings in 2006/07. This was followed up by an education campaign for all staff, and the following savings were achieved:
- (a) Gas consumption was reduced by 17%;
 - (b) Electric consumption was reduced by 10%;
 - (c) Water consumption was reduced by 68%;
- 10.30 It was highlighted to members that an education campaign (the Switch Off & Save (S.O.S.) Campaign) is currently underway to raise awareness of energy efficiency across the Council, and to offer solutions for energy efficient working. All staff will be engaged via presentations to individual teams. Checks will be made in each office to ensure that good practice is adopted by all.
- 10.31 An innovative approach has been adopted to reduce the carbon footprint of waste originating from Council operations. Individual bins have been removed from offices, and integrated recycling units installed in all offices. Trials in several offices found that this method increases recycling rates significantly.
- 10.32 Members were informed of the Jesmond Road Primary School Rebuild. The new school will be built to very high standards in terms of energy efficiency, and will include a brown roof, living wall and a highly efficient heating system and will make use of natural light, ventilation and heat.
- 10.33 It was highlighted to members that a Sustainable Construction Group was formed in 2008, and has produced a draft Sustainable Construction Policy. Guidance will be produced in order to ensure that the policy is translated into practice for both corporate and public use.
- 10.34 Use of recycled sub-base material for construction work at Brenda Road was trialled, which significantly reduces the carbon implications of projects in comparison with the use of virgin raw materials. The use of recycled material not only reduces carbon emissions associated with quarrying, but also preserves resources and reduces reliance on landfill. Early indications from onsite construction staff are very promising.

- 10.35 Car sharing is being promoted within Hartlepool, in order to reduce the number of journeys being made by private vehicles. The Council is a partner of the Tees Valley 2Plus Travel Scheme, which has over 1,000 members.
- 10.36 Safe and Fuel Efficient Driving (SAFED) training courses have been provided for appropriate officers. On average, SAFED training increases fuel efficiency by 10%. An officer has now been appointed within the Road Safety Team to facilitate employee driver training in order to achieve similar savings across the council fleet and also with business users. Reducing emissions from the Council's fleet by 10% would save approximately 162 tonnes of CO₂ per year (based on the Council's 2008/09 figures).
- 10.37 The diesel used for the Council's fleet of vehicles has a 5% bio-diesel content, which reduces the use of fossil fuels by 5%, and also significantly reduces emissions resulting from transport in comparison to the use of regular diesel.
- 10.38 A teleconferencing facility trial is currently being developed by HBC in order to reduce the need for travel to meetings. The facility will be open to all staff, depending on availability. As well as reduced mileages (and associated carbon emissions/costs), officers will be able to 'attend' meetings that may not have been possible previously, giving a potential increase in the efficiency of the workforce.
- 10.39 Members heard that rainwater harvesting equipment has been installed at Stranton Garden Nursery to reduce the need for mains water for plant watering. Although variations in climatic conditions make quantification difficult, this process has two highly significant benefits, in that the need for treated mains water is less, and the risk of flooding during heavy rainfall is reduced.
- 10.40 The Council's Municipal Waste Management Service has seen major improvements over recent years, with the recycling rate reaching 38% during 2008/09.
- 10.41 Members were informed that the Council has a Sustainable Procurement Strategy to ensure that the carbon footprint associated with purchasing goods and services is minimised.
- 10.42 The Council has an active Paper Use Policy, which aims to maximise the use of recycled paper throughout the authority; minimise the amount of paper used within the authority and striving for a 'paper free' office environment; and maximise the amount of paper recycled by the authority
- 10.43 The review, procurement and implementation of a managed print service in 2008 has led to significant paper reduction and energy savings, as well as reducing the number of printers across the authority.
- 10.44 Hartlepool participated in World Wildlife Fund (WWF) led Earth Hour in 2009. Earth Hour raises the profile of energy efficiency and climate change, and

the Council turned off the lights that illuminate the Trincomalee ship at the Historic Quay, and asked the community to follow suit by turning off electrical appliances when not in use.

- 10.45 The Council are committed to reducing emissions per capita in the local authority area as part of the current Local Area Agreement, setting a reduction target of 3.75% per annum over three years. For each of the two years that data has been published for, the Council has exceeded these targets.

11. VIEWS OF PARTNER / EXTERNAL AGENCIES ON WAYS TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON MANAGEMENT

- 11.1 The Forum was very keen to engage with all relevant partners and external agencies to gather their views and suggestions on how to meet the challenges of climate change and carbon management. Detailed below are the views and suggestions received from the key partners and agencies.

Evidence from the Chair of Hartlepool's Environment Partnership

- 11.2 The Chair of the Environment Partnership informed the Forum of the partnerships roles and responsibilities. These are to bring together the Private sector, the public sector agencies, voluntary environment groups and the public in the form of resident representatives to work in a formal environment towards all of the environmental issues associated within Hartlepool and the localities. The Partnership have various sub groups for which they have just had a review of their terms of reference, one sub group is the climate change sub group and their original draft terms of reference were circulated to the Forum but are at present being re-drafted. You can see the depth in which the Partnership look into the problems of climate change, encompassing representatives from a wide variety of organisations throughout Hartlepool, Teesside and East Durham.
- 11.3 The Partnership has just reviewed the terms of reference of all of the sub groups and it is clear that all groups are cross cutting, by this the Chair explained that when you listen to the Council's Environmental Co-ordinator on what is going on with Pride in Hartlepool, they are also tackling parts of climate change, for instance they are educating school children on reducing energy use and thus the carbon footprint of their homes and schools. This is one instance of many within these groups. Also, the sub groups are working and bringing in some uniformity, the groups now look at the workload in the coming year and they must set their goals on each subject, giving evidence at the end of the year on how their findings and recommendations were integrated back into the public arena, and many of these findings in some way help to reduce the carbon emissions.
- 11.4 The Environment Partnership is a very good 'vehicle' to get the message of carbon management, through all of these group and agencies to a very wide spectrum of both the public, organisations and companies.

- 11.5 The Forum was interested to hear of any suggestions to help raise awareness in the community. The Chair of the Environment Partnership believes that the Council already carries out good work in raising awareness of climate change in the community and it is difficult to suggest something as we are already doing most. However it would not do any harm to remind the people of Hartlepool about the most basic tips that they can use in their own home, things like only fill the kettle with the water that you will use once it has boiled, turning off electrical items rather than leaving on standby and lots of other little tips. So the question is that they are receiving the carbon reduction education through various avenues but how do we remind people of the basics. The Council could have a dedicated 'tips' page in magazines such as Hartbeat and at every opportunity where we communicate with the public, we could utilise the schoolchildren and ask schools to get the children to take home information leaflets when the school are sending letters etc home with the children. The Chair of the Environment Partnership thinks that most people have had the message through education and believes that most just need reminding to utilise the tips at every opportunity.
- 11.6 Once the process of reminding people has been established and the Council are happy that a good percentage are doing the basic things then we can look at introducing more 'complicated' information like, for instance, when people are buying new electrical goods what questions they need to ask about power consumption and how to understand the information that they are getting back so that they can go for the equipment that not only uses the least energy but also cost the least energy to manufacture and deliver to the shops.

Evidence from the Tess and Durham Energy Advice (TADEA)

- 11.7 TADEA Ltd is a non-profit energy advice company operating across the North of England with offices in Billingham and Newcastle. All of their operations are compliant with the ISO 14001 accreditation and a sustainability policy. TADEA Ltd holds the contract for the Energy Saving Trust advice centre in the North East of England. This service provides free and impartial energy advice to households and communities. Outreach events can be arranged to raise awareness in specific communities.
- 11.8 In terms of specific initiatives aimed at reducing the use of energy resources, it was highlighted to the Forum that TADEA Ltd currently deliver Hartwarmers in Hartlepool. Hartwarmers is funded through Single Housing Investment Programme, the Primary Care Trust and Utilities to provide energy efficiency measures to the most vulnerable households in Hartlepool. The Mayor of Hartlepool is a strong advocate of the initiative which has helped 3500 homes to date. TADEA LTD, can also provide tailored energy audits and training for council buildings and staff.

Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre

- 11.9 The representative from the Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre thanked Members of the Forum for undertaking an investigation into Climate

Change and Carbon Management and assured Members that the Energy Saving Trust will continue to work closely with the Council.

Evidence from Middlesbrough Council

- 11.10 The Forum invited Middlesbrough Council's Sustainability Co-ordinator to talk to them about their Council's approach to tackling climate change. The Forum was informed that in March 2008 Middlesbrough Council and Partner Organisations were awarded Beacon Status for tackling Climate Change, one of six Council's across England to be given this award. The Beacon Award Scheme is run by the Improvement and Development Agency (IDEA) and recognises Councils that demonstrate clear leadership, excellent vision and innovation on key themes
- 11.11 It was highlighted to the Forum that Middlesbrough Council's achievement of Beacon Status was down to a number of aspects including signing up to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, partnership working and their carbon reduction targets.
- 11.12 Members praised Middlesbrough Council for their efforts however felt that if only 60% of the planet were acting, only so much could be achieved if the other 40% continued polluting. The representative from Middlesbrough Council acknowledged this but said that those countries which polluted the most were those which were making the biggest strides in this area. Comment was often made about China's energy usage but as a country they were far more proactive than most in understanding sustainable technology and energy. African countries tended to use far less resources than the UK and USA and it seemed only fair that those countries polluting the most should contribute the most to putting it right.
- 11.13 It was highlighted to the Forum that in order to successfully engage with the wider community then an idea is to integrating climate change priorities with other priorities such as fuel poverty as this tended to increase public interest. He highlighted in particular an initiative whereby drivers were encouraged to use their cycles around the town centre through the provision of a free central storage facility. The Forum was very interesting in the cycling scheme, especially the costs of setting the scheme up as Members were of the opinion that this initiative could be potentially a great social enterprise for the future.
- 11.14 Information was received from the Director of Middlesbrough's Environment City on the costs of their cycling centre. The costs are difficult as it depends on the extent of the activity that is included. The Director included below an idea of typical costs if staff are employed through a charity (with on costs lower than for a Local Authority). Cycling Officer (delivers training, runs events and staff cover when Assistant on leave etc): £21,000 pa (including on costs). Cycle Centre Assistant(reception in Centre): £15000 pa. Annual running costs: £5000-£10000, depending on whether there are rent and rate charges or whether premises can be obtained for free/rent can be foregone.

The Middlesbrough Cycling Centre is in a unit in the Bus Station that had proved impossible to let commercially. Set up costs will depend upon current state of premises chosen and level of décor/facilities. A DDA compliant shower and toilet is essential, together with the cycle storage, reception desk, information racks etc. Typical £10000 - £20000 (year one cost only and a small maintenance sum each year). Clearly the salary cost is the largest single ongoing commitment and it is worth thinking about whether the centre could be developed as part of another facility that is already staffed or as part of the development of a new facility. In Middlesbrough, one of the drivers was to increase the general staffing presence in the Bus Station to improve the sense of security for visitors. The Centre currently has a higher staffing level as external funding is used for the Cycle Trainer posts.

- 11.15 Following on from this, the Forum requested information about the cycling schemes / initiatives and storage that the Council provides. Members were informed that the Council promotes cycling in schools through School Travel Plans and the national standard cycle training that the Council deliver to children in Years 5, 6 and 7. Pupils are encouraged to cycle to school after receiving this training and through the School Travel Plan Awards scheme, schools can submit bids for secure cycle storage. Through the Work Place Travel Plan process the Council encourage organisations and businesses to provide cycle storage and promote cycling as an alternative to car use. Over the Easter time 2010 the Council are planning to introduce adult cycle training schemes and 'back to cycling events' for those that wish to take up cycling for commuter and leisure trips. In addition the Council is to introduce a salary sacrifice scheme whereby employees can purchase cycles through the Council at discounted rates which will contribute to sustainability and climate change agendas.
- 11.16 With regard to cycle storage the Council currently has five or so lockers at the Train Station. This having been said, it is intended to completely re-vamp cycle storage in the vicinity of the station as part of the Transport Interchange and station improvement works, as the storage is not very well used. The works will hopefully result in a better uptake of secure cycle storage. A key element of the Transport Interchange is the Pedestrian and Cycleway Spine:-
- (a) It will run from the Interchange entrance on Church Street to the bus shelters and the train station;
 - (b) The cycleway will terminate in an area providing secure cycle lockers;
 - (c) The pedestrian route runs to the rear of the shelters allowing access to all bus pick-up/drop-off points and connects to train station frontage;
 - (d) All crossing points across the Park and Ride car park access roads will be raised to pedestrian level facilitating pedestrian and cyclist priority;

- (e) Crossing points will be ramped for vehicle use to provide traffic calming measures;
 - (f) Pedestrian and cycleway routes will be bounded on the car park side by a row of high quality ornamental tree species of a smaller size, creating an avenue feel while ensuring that the route is open and easily surveyed for safety reasons;
 - (g) The tree planting will all be located in an open grassed area to provide unrestricted views for user safety;
 - (h) A second feature point will be located at the intersection of the pedestrian/cycleway spine and the staircase access footway in order to reduce the potential for user conflict; and
 - (i) The second feature point will be a raised area (approx. 200mm high) with ground cover shrub planting and a central art feature with a transportation theme.
- 11.17 The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods informed Members that in relation to sustainable transport, a commitment of £20k had been made by the Council to install four charging points for electric cars across the town.
- 11.18 In relation to bicycle storage Members were concerned that the storage facilities at the train station did not seem to be used as it was not clear how to access them. It was suggested that this issue be looked at and improved, possibly through additional signage. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods acknowledged that this is an issue, as it is at Seaton Station and would look at the signage and advertisement of the facility.
- 11.19 The Forum questioned planning policies and how these incorporated sustainability. The representative from Middlesbrough Council highlighted to the Forum that in terms of planning policy this could be problematic because while developers had to work within government guidelines they were perfectly able to build elsewhere if they felt the requirements imposed by Middlesbrough Council were too steep. Therefore there needed to be some negotiation in these matters. However a number of new builds in Middlesbrough, specifically the Middlehaven development, were being constructed to high sustainability standards and it was hoped that others could be encouraged to build to these high standards. Sustainable development is the core principle underpinning the town planning system. Planning authorities are required to ensure it is treated in an integrated way within the development plan. Climate change and carbon management are covered by several policies in the Middlesbrough Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy. The relevant criteria of these policies are summarised below:-

Section 1.01 - Policy CS4 Sustainable Development

- 11.20 All development will be required to contribute to achieving sustainable development principles by, where appropriate:
- g. being located so that services and facilities are accessible on foot, bicycle or by public transport. Reliance on the public car must be reduced or minimised and the use of sustainable forms of transport encouraged;
 - i. locating developments that attract large numbers of people in those locations which are accessible by sustainable forms of transport and will contribute most to achieving social inclusion;
 - m. ensuring that inappropriate development is not carried out in the floodplain and sustainable methods of surface drainage are used. This should include the incorporation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems in new developments to mitigate against localised flooding, promote water conservation and help protect water quality;
 - n. minimising the generation of waste and maximising the use of recycled materials;
 - o. contributing to reducing the causes and impacts of climate change; and
 - p. incorporating within developments of 10 dwellings, or a floorspace of 1,000 sq.m, or more onsite renewable energy facilities or energy saving technologies (for example combined heat and power systems, photovoltaic cells and wind turbines) that provide as a minimum 10% of energy requirements. There should be no demonstrable harm to biodiversity interests on visual or residential amenities or by way of pollution generation. Where such harm is likely it will be necessary to demonstrate that this is outweighed by the benefits contributing to diverse and sustainable energy supplies and reducing carbon emissions; provision should be made to mitigate or compensate for any such harm.

Policy CS5 - Design

- 11.21 Proposals will be required to achieve the following:
- j. incorporation of features in terms of layout, design and specification to achieve high levels of energy and environmental efficiency. All new residential developments should be completed to a Buildings Research Establishment (BRE) Eco-homes* rating of very good or excellent, and all new non-residential development should be completed to a Buildings Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) rating of very good or excellent. Development should also meet the Energy Efficiency Best Practice Standard and conform to the Code for Sustainable Homes.

Policy DC1 - General Development

*Now replaced by The Code for Sustainable Homes

- 11.22 Unless there is a specific and acceptable reason for the exception to be made, all development proposals will be required to take account, or satisfy as a minimum the following:
- f. the effect on levels of air, water or noise pollution of the environment is limited both during and after completion; and
 - g. emphasis is placed upon the use of sustainable construction methods and environmentally sound resources and materials.
- 11.23 The representative from Middlesbrough highlighted to the Forum the One Planet Living approach and its ten principles of zero carbon, zero waste, sustainable transport, sustainable materials, local and sustainable food, sustainable water, natural habitats and wildlife, culture and heritage, equity and fair trade and health and happiness. The vision being to create ‘a world in which people everywhere can lead happy, healthy lives within their fair share of the Earth’s resources’. Members queried how many of the 10 principles were achievable in reality. The representative from Middlesbrough acknowledged some of the targets (zero carbon, zero waste) would take a long time and could not be done without commitment from Governments however challenging targets were necessary to encourage progress.

Evidence from the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit

- 11.24 Members heard evidence from the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit which was formally established in 2005. The Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership includes Hartlepool Borough Council and all of the other Tees Valley Local Authorities, the Environment Agency, RENEW, Tees and Durham Energy Advice Centre, and the Energy Savings Trust. The first Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy was adopted in 2007.
- 11.25 The partnership is being expanded and now includes the University of Teesside. A revised climate change strategy has been drafted, reflecting significant changes in the national policy context and the desire to engage other sectors.
- 11.26 The vision of the TVCCP is “*creating prosperous and resilient communities in a low carbon economy.*” The draft Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy details the key vulnerabilities, opportunities, mitigation and adaptation options in the following areas:
- (a) Business support;
 - (b) Housing;
 - (c) Connectivity;
 - (d) Creating quality of place;

- (e) Communication and awareness raising - which is vital to achieving substantial emissions reductions and adapting lifestyles and property.
- 11.27 It was highlighted to the Forum that the short term actions and targets contained in the draft Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy are based on the existing action plans of the Local Authorities, and actions that are needed at sub-regional level based on the recommendations of the Committee on Climate Change and the Tees Valley Business Case for Development. The strategy seeks to harmonise existing best practise across the sub-region and integrate Local Authority action on climate change with the economic development of the Tees Valley. The draft Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy has set medium term targets in line with the UK carbon budgets, and the medium term targets will be delivered through the existing mechanisms of the revised Tees Valley Unlimited Business Plan.
- 11.28 All of the Tees Valley Local Authorities have, or are currently producing a carbon management plan to address emissions arising from their own operations, and the Carbon Reduction Commitment will drive improvements in energy efficiency in Local Authorities. All of the local authorities are reporting on the climate change National Indicators 185 (CO₂ reduction from local authority operations), 186 (per capita reduction in CO₂ emissions in the LA area), and 188 (Planning to Adapt to Climate Change). Hartlepool will have developed an Adaptation Strategy and Plan by March 2010.
- 11.29 TVCCP are actively seeking to expand the partnership to other private and public sector organisations, and is developing a climate change charter which will include a commitment from organisations to reduce their carbon footprint. The Tees Valley Green Business Network is currently piloting an environmental award scheme in Middlesbrough that will help to promote the climate change charter to organisations. It is intended to extend this scheme to the whole Tees Valley, including Hartlepool, early in 2010.
- 11.30 All of the North East Local Authorities, including Hartlepool Borough Council, have signed up to the Covenant of Mayors initiative, which is a commitment to reduce CO₂ emissions in the local authority territory by at least 20% by 2020.
- 11.31 Suggestions to help raise awareness of climate change in the community include the regional programme of workshops to raise awareness of the recently published UK Climate Impacts Programme UK Climate Change Projections from 16 to 20 November 2009. The Council is recommended to send an officer/officers to receive technical training on using the software associated with the projections in November 2009. TVCCP would like to organise screenings of the Age of Stupid film for elected members and other interested people in Hartlepool before the UNFCCC convenes in Copenhagen on December 7 2009. Friends of the Earth are willing to organise the screenings in partnership with the Local Authorities, as part of their 'Get Serious about CO₂' campaign. In this way, the cost is limited to

approximately £150 instead of a far higher fee were the Council to apply for a license to show it in its own right.

- 11.32 To raise and share good practice about climate change, the TVCCP is currently discussing how to develop the concept of a Carbon Achievement Zone for the Tees Valley with the Energy Savings Trust. The concept is based on providing coherent and targeted messages on climate change, and providing a framework to coordinate climate change related activities such as home insulation and retrofitting.
- 11.33 Members of the Forum were very keen to find out about any initiatives aimed at reducing the use of energy resources which would be of benefit to the Council. Members were informed are the following initiatives:-
- (a) Initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors will support measures to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in Hartlepool. All local authorities in the North East have signed up to the Covenant and are using a common carbon planning tool to develop Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAP). These will identify options for reducing carbon emissions in the local authority territory by at least 20% by 2020. This may facilitate joint procurement of low carbon technologies and services.
 - (b) The European Investment Bank (EIB) has designed a loan package specifically to support investment associated with the Covenant of Mayors. The SEAPs developed by local authorities, including Hartlepool Council, can be used to unlock financing opportunities through the EIB. The organisations ANEC and ONE North East have approached the EIB to apply for support to develop a business case for investment in the North East, and the SEAPs.
 - (c) One North East currently has an open call for ERDF project/operation proposals in support of innovative energy efficiency measures to demonstrate and test the application of renewable energy technologies for existing social housing.
 - (d) The 10:10 initiative is a public commitment to reduce carbon emissions by 10% by 2010. Several Local Authorities have signed up already, including Hartlepool Borough Council. The TVCCP has also signed up.

Evidence from the North East Climate Change Partnership

- 11.34 The representative from the North East Climate Change Partnership congratulated the Council on the significant commitment in place already to address climate change including the provision of Local Area Agreement indicators, signatory to the Covenant of Mayors, engagement in the carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme and being a member of the Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership. The representative from the North East Climate Change Partnership confirmed that the future of climate change in the North East of England was predicted to include changing weather

patterns and increased frequency of extreme events, particularly rainfall precipitation. It was added that although temperatures would be likely to increase between now and 2050, the extreme cold will be at sub zero, and coupled with polarisation of rainfall precipitation will result in the likelihood of significant snowfall.

- 11.35 Members questioned what barriers there were in relation to increasing public involvement. The representative from the North east Climate Change Partnership felt that press coverage was an issue and there are many people committed although there are still some sectors more cynical than others in relation to the man made nature of climate change.

Evidence from the Environment Agency

- 11.36 Members were informed that the Environment Agency is playing a central role on climate change. Their work covers both reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, commonly known as mitigation, and managing the impacts of climate change, or adaptation. The Environment Agency are doing so in their role as the Government's principal environmental advisor and regulator through:-

- (a) Mitigation - Currently, around 40 per cent of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions are covered by regulatory and economic schemes the Environment Agency implement. This will grow to 48 per cent by 2012. For industries the Environment Agency regulate, they consider their energy use and limit releases of pollutants in the permits we issue. The Environment Agency also helps to run some of the main carbon trading schemes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- (b) supporting the development and use of low-carbon technologies, including renewables, carbon capture and storage, and nuclear power, while minimising other environmental impacts. Some aspects we are involved with are:
 - (i) Carbon capture and storage
 - (ii) Landfill gas emissions
 - (iii) Climate change and nuclear power
 - (iv) Water industry carbon reduction
 - (v) Small scale hydropower
 - (vi) Ground Source Heat Pumps
 - (vii) Biomass and biofuels
 - (viii) Marine renewables

- 11.37 Members were informed that action needs to be taken to adapt to unavoidable climate change and build resilience against higher temperatures, rising sea levels and extreme rainfall patterns. The Environment Agencies focus is to make sure that England and Wales are able to adapt to the changing climate, and particularly the increasing risks of river and coastal flooding, the growing pressures on water supplies for

people and the environment and the consequences of a changing climate for biodiversity.

- 11.38 The Environment Agency is leading on adaptation to climate change in:
- (a) Flood risk management;
 - (b) Coastal realignment strategy;
 - (c) Managing water resources; and
 - (d) Biodiversity conservation
- 11.39 The Environment Agency has implemented a number of actions within its own organisation to reduce CO₂ by introducing energy efficiency measures in its building, improving the use of technology and buying lower emission vehicles for its fleet. A number of additional measures have been implemented including switching all their offices, depot and sites to green electricity tariffs which saved more than 17, 500 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year.
- 11.40 Over the last two years the Environment Agency has cut its carbon footprint by 14%. The Environment Agency has pledged to do even more to reduce its impact on the environment by participating in the 10:10 campaign which aims to cut carbon emissions by 10% in 2012
- 11.41 The Environment Agency's pledge to cut carbon emissions is part of their overall commitment to reduce the environmental impact of all parts of the organisation. As part of this commitment, they are:
- (a) Reducing the miles driven by their staff. Over the last two years the Environment Agency have already reduced mileage by 8.9 million miles;
 - (b) Working with developers to create the greenest office development in the UK for their new corporate office in Bristol;
 - (c) Forming a strategic partnership to develop large scale wind turbines on their land;
 - (d) Rolling out technology to reduce energy use in our buildings by 15%;
 - (e) Purchasing over 99% of electricity from renewable sources;
 - (f) Operating one of the greenest, award winning transport fleets in the country;
 - (g) Closely managing temperature and lighting in buildings to reduce energy;
 - (h) Diverting food waste from landfill; and investing in rainwater harvesting, waterless urinals and spray taps.
- 11.42 In terms of raising awareness in schools, schools provide one route for raising awareness and taking action on climate change both directly within the school and beyond through links with the school's wider community.

The representative from the Environment Agency drew member's attention to The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Climate Challenge, which has funded two initiatives that focus on young people and raise their awareness of climate change. For children aged 7-14 there is the Carbonator website (<http://www.carboncontrol.org.uk/carbonator/default.aspx>), which has been designed as the junior version of the Act on CO2 online calculator. For 11-18 year olds, a website called 'Your climate your life' (<http://www.yourclimateyourlife.org.uk/>) has been developed. The website is linked to the geography curriculum and provides a wealth of information, interactive features, images and downloads. It has been developed in partnership with schools to engage and inspire teachers and students to understand climate change.

- 11.43 It was highlighted to Members that the Carbon Trust have produced a document entitled "Saving energy in schools (ECG073) - A guide for headteachers; governors; premises managers and school energy managers", which is available to download from their website. More information on how schools can save energy can be found at the Eco-Schools website.
- 11.44 Members were informed about the North East Climate Change Schools Project which is an exciting and unique programme initially piloted in the North East of England between 2007–2009. It is a partnership between Science Learning Centre North East, Durham University, the Environment Agency (funded by the Northumbria Regional Flood Defence Committee) ClimateNE, One World Network North East, the North East Strategic Partnership for Sustainable Schools and the Association of North East Councils. Every Local Authority in the North East is represented in the Climate Change Lead Schools network. The purpose of the project is to enable schools to embed climate change throughout the national curriculum and showcase schools as 'centres of excellence' in climate change teaching, learning and positive action in their local communities.
- 11.45 In Hartlepool there are currently six Climate Change Lead Schools in 2009-2010 (four of these schools were involved with the project in the last academic year and have re-registered as Lead Schools this year. There is the opportunity to promote participation more widely. Recruitment occurs on an annual basis and the next round begins in May):-
- (a) Hart Primary School
 - (b) St. Peter's Elwick Primary School
 - (c) Barnard Grove Primary School
 - (d) St. Hild's School
 - (e) High Tunstall College of Science
 - (f) Seaton Carew Nursery School

- 11.46 There may also be scope to link the schools' achievements through the Climate Change Schools Project more closely to the work of the Council on climate change.
- 11.47 In order to raise awareness in the business sector the Envirowise website has information on raising awareness within a business. It gives advice on how appointing a company Business Champion can help to change behaviour, with information on a typical role profile of a Business Champion and the importance of staff motivation and awareness.
- 11.48 The Carbon trust website has a number of useful publications on how to reduce energy use including The Carbon Trust support for SMEs (Small to Medium Enterprises). This leaflet outlines the Carbon Trust services that are most relevant for SMEs, including simple and practical, no, or low-cost ways to reduce the amount of energy you use.
- 11.49 Members were informed about the Tees Valley Green Business Network which is a local partnership initiative that is helping to support businesses in improving their environmental performance and achieving business benefits as a result. Various information is drawn together on the Network website www.greenteesvalley.org – and businesses can seek advice directly. The Green Business Network Awards Scheme gives recognition to businesses that are taking action on climate change and in other ways that benefit the environment.
- 11.50 In terms of raising awareness in households and communities individuals, businesses and public sectors can sign up to the 10:10 campaign. 10:10 is a project to unite every sector of British society behind one simple idea: that by working together we can achieve a 10% cut in the UK's carbon emissions in 2010.
- 11.51 The Act on CO2 website (<http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk/actonco2/home.html>) has a range of useful information, including a carbon calculator, tips on reducing your energy usage and a list of current campaigns.
- 11.52 The Energy Savings Trust website has a Community Carbon Footprint Tool. This allows groups of individuals to measure their carbon emissions and work out their community carbon footprint. Local businesses and community buildings in the community can also calculate their carbon footprint.
- 11.53 In terms of specific initiatives aimed at reducing the use of energy resources that would benefit the Council, the Environment Agency are aware of the Council's active participation in the Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership and that an action plan for Hartlepool has been developed. The Environment Agency suggested that the Council may wish to consider some of the measures that the Environment Agency has taken to reduce its own emissions (if it is not already taking similar action).

Evidence from Friends of the Earth

- 11.54 The representative from Friends of the Earth commended the work already carried out in Hartlepool through the Council's approach to setting a reduction target and developing a strategy to reach that target. However, the representative from Friends of the Earth questioned whether the Council was striving to reach the correct target. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recommends a target of 40% reduction on 1990 levels by 2010. However, Friends of the Earth felt that a reduction of 42% was scientifically robust, which had been reaffirmed through the launch of the Get Serious about CO2 campaign. It was noted that several cities in the UK had already committed to a 42% reduction by 2020.
- 11.55 It was indicated to the Forum that to be able to deliver a 42% reduction, additional investment is required and a consultancy firm had been engaged by Friends of the Earth to examine best practice within local authorities across the UK and how to finance. The Forum agreed that in terms of financing, the increasing pressures faced by Councils at this time was understandable and that central government should be pressed for additional resources to enable further initiatives to be delivered.
- 11.56 Members of the Forum noted that Darlington Borough Council had undertaken some really good work in relation to sustainable transport and breaking the link between economic development and transport. In addition Kirk Lees Council has made a significant investment in addressing climate change through corporate policy, with the installing of energy efficiency measures in homes across the Borough. The Council's Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods added that the Council has several successful initiatives already in place to help residents of the town insulate their homes.
- 11.57 The representative from Friends of the Earth informed Members that there is a lot of work that local authorities can do in relation to encouraging renewable energy and creating a platform for renewable energy as a source of business and economic growth in the area. The Director of Regeneration and neighbourhoods confirmed that as a local authority it was incumbent on the Council to reflect on the target and if it was viable to increase it, it would be looked. Members were informed that Hartlepool was one of the first local authorities in the county to install volumetric housing at level 4 and it was anticipated that level 5 will be achieved once the development is complete.

Evidence from the North East Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (NEIEP)

- 11.58 The Forum received written evidence from the North East Improvement and Efficiency Partnership who advised on ways to help the Council tackle climate change. It was highlighted that Hartlepool is a signatory to the

Covenant of Mayors, a European wide climate change initiative. This also commits the Authority to meeting various targets, and the need to develop a Sustainable Energy Action Plan by February to the European Commission, the NEIEP believes, which is an area the Forum might like to focus on.

- 11.59 The NEIEP suggested that as well as implications the Forum might also like to consider whether the authority is taking appropriate steps to prepare for the Carbon Reduction Commitment. Some early measures can help to reduce cost implications and also whether the Authority is using the London Energy Toolkit.
- 11.60 Members were informed that in relation to the issue of awareness of climate change, the focus should be on behaviour change, awareness does not translate into the types of required behaviour change. The Partnership ran a recent event on social marketing to introduce officers to this methodology as a means of securing behaviour change.

12. AWARENESS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE COMMUNITY AND HOW ITS PROFILE MAYBE RAISED

- 12.1 The Forum was very keen to engage with members of the public and school children to hear their views in relation to climate change and community awareness. As such, a Focus Group was held on 11 January 2010 at the Civic Centre, Hartlepool and a Climate Change Activity Session was organised for members to attend on 6 November 2009, also at the Civic Centre.

Focus Group held on 11 January 2010

- 12.2 Whilst turnout was low, the event was well publicised in the local press together with the distribution of leaflets/posters to community groups and venues.
- 12.3 Members of the public were given the opportunity to express their views and provide input into the investigation. The Group's views were sought on the following questions:-

(i) Do you have any ideas or practices which could help reduce our carbon footprint?

- (a) Try to reduce car usage, car sharing was suggested, although the Council do encourage and promote this;
- (b) the reduction of council buildings and the creation of open plan offices was viewed as a good way to reduce energy;
- (c) schools were seen as a priority area for energy reduction;

- (d) a checklist for individual households showing how energy can be saved was seen as a way to help reduce household energy costs;
- (e) continue to work with other local authorities / schools / universities in the area to develop new ideas and initiatives;
- (f) dimming of street lights was considered; and
- (g) maximise the natural resources available e.g wind

(ii) Do you feel that the community is aware of the effects of climate change?

- (a) the general opinion was that children and young people had a good understanding of climate change and its effects but it was felt that many adults either were not aware of the effects of climate change or there was a resistance to act.

(iii) Can you suggest ways to help raise awareness of climate change in the community to help to reduce our carbon footprint?

- (a) focus on publicising / promoting climate change to the public, use the voluntary sector to promote information;
- (b) more publicity on targets set and how public can help to achieve them;
- (c) highlight to the public what exactly climate change is and its effects;
- (d) publicise examples of how saving energy can make a difference, use 'cost' examples; and
- (e) educate the public on schemes available to help reduce energy costs, for example, wall and roof insulation schemes.

Climate Change Activity Session held on 6 November 2009

- 12.4 A class of year 5 pupils were also invited to participate in the activity session. Members and the children participated in three activities which focused on climate change. The first activity was a play which looked at how water is wasted on a daily basis and how to be 'waterwise'. The second activity introduced the concept of food miles and their carbon implications and looked at the importance of buying locally sourced food. For the final activity the Members and children made personal pledges to help with climate change.

- 12.5 Members commented on the impact children have on addressing climate change as they are a strong voice within the home and can influence change with their parents and peers. In view of this it was suggested that ways of working with schools and young people should be explored further. Although, Members raised concerns about the amount of influence the Council has on schools and businesses in relation to their commitment to carbon reduction.

Photographs from Climate Change Activity Session



Evidence from the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department

- 12.6 The Climate Change Officer highlighted to the Forum the ways in which the Council are actively engaging with the community which included:-
- (a) informal presentations and discussions with community groups;
 - (b) school events;
 - (c) smarter living roadshows which includes topics such as energy saving, recycling and local environmental quality;
 - (d) solar car events where children construct solar powered cars and discuss the benefits of renewable energy;
 - (e) Tees Valley Green Business Award – due to be launched with businesses;
 - (f) Smart meter workshops;
 - (g) Eco-driving challenge; and
 - (h) Displays at Middleton Grange Shopping Centre

- 12.7 Members welcomed the involvement of young people as they are very keen to raise awareness of climate change issues within the home environment. It was noted that identifying the most appropriate forums and groups to convey the climate change message was a key issue and it was suggested by the Forum that the support of the Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency would be invaluable.

13. CONCLUSIONS

13.1 The Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum concluded:-

- (a) That the Council have already carried out excellent work in relation to climate change and the reduction of their carbon footprint;
- (b) That a cycling centre with free cycle storage would be a great social enterprise for the future;
- (c) That cycle storage facilities at Hartlepool train station did not seem to be used and it was not clear how to access them. It was suggested by the Forum that this issue be looked at and improved through additional signage;
- (d) That it is recognised that challenging targets are necessary to encourage progress;
- (e) That the Council needs to continue to engage and encourage schools, businesses and the Council's workforce to reduce energy usage;
- (f) That children and young people have a good understanding of climate change and its effects but the Forum felt that adults either were not aware of the effects or there was a resistance to act;
- (g) That children and young people are a strong voice within the home and can influence change and ways of working with children and young people should be explored further;
- (h) That there are concerns about the amount of influence the Council has on schools and businesses in relation to their commitment to carbon reduction;
- (i) That awareness of climate change needs to be raised and it would be helpful to the public if they were shown how to save energy in their own homes, for example through a dedicated 'tips' page in magazines and questions which to consider when buying new electrical equipment to assess / compare energy consumption among products;
- (j) That the Forum support the Council's efforts to maximise the natural sources available for energy, for example, wind power;

- (k) That the Council welcome and support the introduction of electric charging points for electric vehicles across Hartlepool; and
- (l) That Council meetings, wherever possible, should be held in rooms that accommodate the number of people who are in attendance in order to save energy,

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

14.1 The Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum has taken evidence from a wide variety of sources 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 lobby Central Government for additional funding to enable further energy saving initiatives to be delivered locally;
- (b) That the Council continue to work with schools and businesses to support and encourage them to reduce their energy usage;
- (c) That the Council explore further ways of working with children and young people to continue to promote climate change and its effects;
- (d) That the Council explore further ways to publicise climate change and work with the Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency and the wider voluntary and community sector to identify the most appropriate local forums and groups to communicate the effects of climate change to;
- (e) That the Council publicise their climate change targets along with how the public can help to achieve these targets;
- (f) That the Council continue to educate the public and the Council's workforce on how to help reduce energy costs;
- (g) That the Council, wherever possible, hold meetings in appropriate size rooms to accommodate the number of people in attendance;
- (h) That the Council encourage developers to install electric charging points for electric vehicles as part of any new developments;
- (i) That the Council continue to promote cycling initiatives to the public and the workforce; and
- (j) That the Council explore the feasibility of constructing additional cycling storage facilities in key locations across Hartlepool to encourage people to cycle

15. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 15.1 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:

The Mayor as Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Housing;

Chair of Hartlepool's Environment Partnership – Councillor Peter Jackson;

Dave Stubbs – Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Sylvia Tempest – Environmental Standards Manager

Paul Hurwood – Climate Change Officer

Resident Representatives

External Representatives

Leanne Wilson – Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit;

Bob King – Middlesbrough Council

Adrian Hilton – North East Climate Change Partnership;

Simon Bowen – Friends of the Earth

Bill Kirkup – North East Improvement and Efficiency

Mike McNulty – Environment Agency

Members of the public

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

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Climate Change and Carbon Management – Scoping Report presented to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of 17 August 2009
- (ii) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Climate Change and Carbon Management – Setting the Scene' presented to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of 21 September 2009
- (iii) Presentation of the Environmental Standards Manager entitled 'Climate Change and Carbon Management Programme' delivered to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of 21 September 2009
- (iv) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Climate Change and Carbon Management – Carbon Reduction Commitment – Covering Report presented to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of 21 September 2009
- (v) Presentation of the Climate Change Officer entitled 'The carbon Reduction Commitment' delivered to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of 21 September 2009
- (vi) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Climate Change and Carbon Management – Evidence from a Representative from Middlesbrough Council – Covering Report presented to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of 26 October 2009
- (vii) Presentation from Middlesbrough Council entitled 'Middlesbrough – Tackling Climate Change' delivered to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of 26 October 2009
- (viii) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Climate Change and Carbon Management – Carbon Reduction Commitment – Covering Report presented to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of 21 September 2009
- (ix) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Climate Change and Carbon Management – Evidence from the Council's Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department' – Covering Report presented to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of 26 October 2010

- (x) Report of the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods entitled 'Climate Change and Carbon Management Investigation: Evidence from the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department presented to the neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of 26 October 2009
- (xi) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Climate Change and Carbon Management – Written Evidence from the Mayor as Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Housing and the Chair of Hartlepool's Environment Partnership' – Covering Report presented to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of 26 October 2009
- (xii) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Investigation into Climate Change and Carbon Management – Forum Participation in a Climate Change Activity Session in Conjunction with 11 Million Day' – Covering Report presented to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of 21 October 2009
- (xiii) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Climate Change and Carbon Management – Evidence from key Stakeholders' – Covering Report presented to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of 1 February 2010
- (xiv) Presentation from the North East Climate Change Partnership entitled 'Climate Change. Hartlepool: North East England' delivered to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of 1 February 2010
- (xv) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Climate Change and Carbon Management – Evidence from the Council's Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department – Covering Report presented to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of 1 February 2010
- (xvi) Presentation from the Climate Change Officer entitled 'Community Engagement' delivered to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of 1 February 2010
- (xvii) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Climate Change and Carbon Management – Feedback from the Climate Change Activity Session held on 6 November 2009 - Covering Report presented to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of 1 February 2010
- (xviii) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Climate Change and Carbon Management – Feedback from the Climate Change Focus Group held on 11 January 2010 – Covering Report presented to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of 1 February 2010
- (xix) Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2008) *Climate Change Act 2008 – Key Provisions / Milestones*, Available from: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/legislation/provisions.htm> (Accessed 30 July 2009).

- (xx) Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2008) Local Government Performance Framework: Defra-led National Indicators, <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localgovindicators/indicators.htm> (Accessed 30 July 2009).
- (xxi) Climate Change Act 2008, Available from: http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2008/pdf/ukpga_20080027_en.pdf (Accessed 30 July 2009).
- (xxii) Report of the Director for Neighbourhood Services entitled 'The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC)' presented at the meeting of Cabinet of 18 May 2009.
- (xxiii) The Covenant of Mayors: available from <http://www.eumayors.eu/>
- (xxiv) ONE North East ERDF: <http://www.onenortheast.co.uk/page/erdf/firstcall.cfm>
- (xxv) The 10:10 Initiative: available from <http://www.1010uk.org/>
- (xxvi) <http://www.slcn.org.uk/climatechange/>
- (xxvii) www.greenteesvalley.org
- (xxviii) <http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk/actonco2/home.html>
- (xxix) Minutes of the meetings of 24 July 2009, 17 August 2009, 26 October 2009 and 1 February 2010

CABINET REPORT

7 June 2010



Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: ACTION PLAN – CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON MANAGEMENT

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 'Climate Change and Carbon Management'.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

- 2.1 The report provides brief background information into 'Climate Change and Carbon Management' 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 at the first meeting of 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 'Climate Change and Carbon Management'.

Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO 'CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON MANAGEMENT' – 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 'Climate Change and Carbon Management'.
- .

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 'Climate Change and Carbon Management, 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 aim of the investigation was to gain an understanding of Hartlepool Borough Council's response to the issue of Climate Change and identify what efforts the Council is making to manage its carbon emissions.

3. ACTION PLAN

- 3.1 As a result of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into 'Climate Change and Carbon Management, the following recommendations have been made:-
- (a) That the Council lobby Central Government for additional funding to enable further energy saving initiatives to be delivered locally;
 - (b) That the Council continue to work with schools and businesses to support and encourage them to reduce their energy usage;
 - (c) That the Council explore further ways of working with children and young people to continue to promote climate change and its effects;
 - (d) That the Council explore further ways to publicise climate change and work with the Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency and the wider

voluntary and community sector to identify the most appropriate local forums and groups to communicate the effects of climate change to;

- (e) That the Council publicise their climate change targets along with how the public can help to achieve these targets;
- (f) That the Council continue to educate the public and the Council's workforce on how to help reduce energy costs;
- (g) That the Council, wherever possible, hold meetings in appropriate size rooms to accommodate the number of people in attendance;
- (h) That the Council encourage developers to install electric charging points for electric vehicles as part of any new developments;
- (i) That the Council continue to promote cycling initiatives to the public and the workforce; and
- (j) That the Council explore the feasibility of constructing additional cycling storage facilities in key locations across Hartlepool to encourage people to cycle

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 at the first meeting of 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 'Climate Change and Carbon Management'.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

NAME OF FORUM: Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Climate Change and Carbon Management

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: June 2010

	RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
(a)	That the Council lobby Central Government for additional funding to enable further energy saving initiatives to be delivered locally;	Take recommendations for funding to Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership, and if necessary, consult Government Office North East to add strength to lobbying efforts. Discussions to take place at Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership, resulting in drafting of letter to Minister responsible.	None	Paul Hurwood (with support from Denise Ogden)	September 2010
(b)	That the Council continue to work with schools and businesses to support and encourage them to reduce their energy usage;	Work with schools will continue during 2010/11, by the end of which, all schools will have achieved Bronze Eco-School status. In order for schools to be engaged, it will be vital that the Child & Adult Services Department is fully involved in all work within schools. The Tees Valley Green Business Network and Awards Scheme will allow for further work to be carried out with businesses from 2010/11 onwards.	Work with schools is funded by WNF, which is due to end on the 31 st March 2011. Whilst efforts to find alternative funding will continue, none has been identified at this time	Helen Beaman (with support from Denise Ogden)	March 2011

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

NAME OF FORUM: Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Climate Change and Carbon Management

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: June 2010

	RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
(c)	That the Council explore further ways of working with children and young people to continue to promote climate change and its effects;	An event will be held for secondary school pupils, covering similar themes to the Environment Roundabout.	Funding already identified	Helen Beaman (with support from Denise Ogden)	March 2011
(d)	That the Council explore further ways to publicise climate change and work with the Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency and the wider voluntary and community sector to identify the most appropriate local forums and groups to communicate the effects of climate change to;	Steps will be taken to extend the membership of the Hartlepool Climate Change Working Group, which sits beneath the Environment Partnership.	None	Paul Hurwood (with support from Denise Ogden)	September 2010
		An event will be held in partnership with HVDA, and a voluntary sector climate change action plan will be drafted as a result. Follow up discussions will be held with voluntary sector to ensure and monitor success.	None	Paul Hurwood (with support from Denise Ogden)	July 2010
(e)	That the Council publicise their climate change targets along with how the	Climate change targets and actions will be publicised, as well as associated successes. The Press	None	Paul Hurwood (with support from Denise	March 2011

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

NAME OF FORUM: Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Climate Change and Carbon Management

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: June 2010

RECOMMENDATION		EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
	public can help to achieve these targets;	Office will be kept informed of progress to ensure that the community is aware of progress and how they can take action.		Ogden)	
(f)	That the Council continue to educate the public and the Council's workforce on how to help reduce energy costs;	Climate change awareness raising activities and displays will be held at various locations.	None	Paul Hurwood (with support from Denise Ogden)	March 2011
		A flagship environmental display will be held at the Tall Ships event, and will bring in partners, including the Energy Saving Trust, to ensure wide reaching coverage.	Funding already identified	Kate Ainger (with support from Denise Ogden)	August 2010
		A HBC energy/resource awareness campaign will be delivered to engage all employees in carbon management	Funding already identified	Paul Hurwood (with support from Denise Ogden)	March 2011
(g)	That the Council, wherever possible, hold meetings in appropriate size rooms to accommodate the number of people in attendance;	Climate Change Officer to investigate options to ensure that the most suitable venue is used for meetings.	None	Paul Hurwood (with support from Denise Ogden)	Dec 2010

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

NAME OF FORUM: Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Climate Change and Carbon Management

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: June 2010

	RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
(h)	That the Council encourage developers to install electric charging points for electric vehicles as part of any new developments;	Work will be undertaken to ensure that developers are aware of the need for electric vehicle charging points, and are encouraged to include these in new developments	none	Mike Blair (with support from Alastair Smith)	March 2011
(i)	That the Council continue to promote cycling initiatives to the public and the workforce; and	A Sustainable Travel Officer will be appointed to provide cycle training and promotion, as well as to work on school and staff travel plans. Back to Biking training will be offered to employees alongside the forthcoming cycle salary sacrifice scheme. Training will be made available to HBC employees and the general public through the appointment of National Standard Cycle Trainers	Already identified	Paul Watson (with support from Alastair Smith)	March 2011
(j)	That the Council explore the feasibility of constructing additional cycling storage facilities in	Funding is available for the installation of cycle storage at sites around the town. Work will be undertaken to identify suitable	Already identified	Mike Blair (with support from Alastair Smith)	March 2011

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN**NAME OF FORUM:** Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum**NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY:** Climate Change and Carbon Management**DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT:** June 2010

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
	key locations across Hartlepool to encourage people to cycle			

CABINET REPORT

7 June 2010



Report of: Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

Subject: INTERIM REPORT – CHILD POVERTY AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN HARTLEPOOL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the findings and conclusions of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee investigation into 'Child Poverty and Financial Inclusion in Hartlepool'.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

- 2.1 The Interim 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 interim report was approved by Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 23 April 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 13.1 of the report, which is attached to the back of the papers for this meeting.



SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

INTERIM REPORT CHILD POVERTY AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN HARTLEPOOL

April 2010

CABINET

7 June 2010



Report of: Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

Subject: INTERIM REPORT – CHILD POVERTY AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN HARTLEPOOL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the interim findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee following its investigation into 'Child Poverty and Financial Inclusion in Hartlepool'.

2. SETTING THE SCENE

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee of 31 July 2009, Members determined their Work Programme for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.
- 2.2 In exploring topics for investigation, attention was drawn to the Government's 1999 commitment to eradicate child poverty from a national baseline of 3.4 million children who were living in poverty during 1998/99. This resulted in the establishment of Government targets to cut child poverty by a quarter by 2004/05, by half by 2010/11 and to eradicate child poverty by 2020.
- 2.3 During the course of the Work Programming process, concern had been expressed by multiple Scrutiny Forums regarding the impact of poverty on families in Hartlepool, and the children contained within them. Mirroring the Government's commitment, Members supported the need to reduce / eradicate poverty of all types, locally and nationally and emphasised the importance of financial inclusion and education as key factors in achieving this. On this basis, the issue of child poverty was chosen as an issue for further investigation.
- 2.4 Whilst it had initially been suggested that the standing Scrutiny Forums should be tasked to undertake relevant elements of a child poverty investigation it was agreed that, given the 'cross cutting' nature of the issue, the most prudent course of action would be to concentrate an investigation through the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.

3. OVERALL AIM OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 The overall aim of the Scrutiny investigation was to gain an understanding of the key issues / factors that lead to child poverty and evaluate the Council's, and its partners', activities to reduce / eradicate it.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

- 4.1 The Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny investigation were as outlined below:-

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

5. METHODS OF INVESTIGATION

- 5.1 Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee met formally between the 18 September 2009 and the 19 March 2010 to receive evidence relating the issue of child poverty and financial inclusion in Hartlepool. A detailed report of the issues raised during this meeting is available from the Council's Democratic Services.

- 5.2 A brief summary of the methods of investigation are outlined over the page:-

- (a) Evidence from the Authority's Elected Mayor (Stuart Drummond) and Cabinet Members with Portfolios for:
 - Transport and Neighbourhoods;
 - Regeneration and Economic Development;
 - Culture, Leisure and Tourism;
 - Children's Services; and
 - Adult and Public Health Services.

- (b) Detailed reports, supplemented by verbal evidence, from appropriate officers in the Child and Adult Services Department and Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department;
- (c) Evidence from the Association of North East Councils (ANEC), Government Office North East (GoNE), Child Poverty Action Group and Child Poverty Coalition;
- (d) Evidence from Interested Groups (Financial Inclusion Partnership, Job Centre Plus, West View Project, Children's Trust, Manor Residents Association, Learning and Skills Council, Department for Work and Pensions (Job Centre Plus), Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group, Community Network and HVDA, Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Barnados);
- (e) Explore good practice in other Local Authorities through written evidence and site visits / courses;
- (f) The views of local residents and representatives from minority communities of interest or heritage; and
- (g) Ward Councillors.

6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

6.1 The membership of the Scrutiny Forum was as detailed below:-

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

Resident Representatives: Evelyn Leck, Iris Ryder and Linda Shields

FINDINGS

7. WHAT IS CHILD POVERTY?

7.1 As a starting point for the investigation the Committee explored various definitions of child poverty and clarified the version utilised by this Council. The Committee also, gained a clear understanding of the key issues / factors that lead to child poverty and how the cycle can be broken.

A Definition of Child Poverty

7.2 Members discovered that four definitions are commonly used to measure child poverty. These are shown over the page:-

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

7.3 The Committee was surprised to learn that there is no unilaterally agreed definition of child poverty for use by bodies / organisations across the sectors. This was further demonstrated by HM Treasury decision in 2007 to measure absolute, relative and material deprivation collectively. The basis for this being that eradicating child poverty in the long term would only be met if all three measures were achieved.

7.4 Over and above these definitions, Members ascertained that a proxy is currently used to measure the level of child poverty in Hartlepool. This being based upon the Department of Works and Pensions / Office for National Statistics data with figures representing the percentage of children in poverty as measured by children in families receiving key benefits.

7.5 Members noted this as the definition for the purpose of this investigation but reiterated concerns regarding the lack of a single definition against which success (or otherwise) in dealing with the issue across sectors can be measured.

Key Issues / Factors that Lead to child poverty and How the Cycle can be Broken

7.6 Who is at Risk - Evidence received by the Committee showed that a wide variety of groups could be at risk of finding themselves in poverty. A selection of these groups being:-

- i) Families where one or more adults is/ are out of work;
- ii) Families where one or more adults work/s part time;
- iii) Ethnic minority families;
- iv) Families who have caring responsibilities - including those caring for the elderly and those with young children;
- v) Lone parents;
- vi) Families where one or more of the adults are disabled;
- vii) Families where one or more of their children are disabled;

- viii) Large families with more than three children;
- ix) Families with children aged less than five years;
- x) Families with a history of depression/ mental health illness, substance misuse and/ or a history of domestic violence; and
- xi) Families with offenders in prison.

7.7 It came as no surprise to the Committee that a number of the groups outlined above could be susceptible to slipping in to poverty. However, Members highlighted the misconception that the issue of poverty does not relate to those in work. Attention was drawn throughout the investigation to families where one or more adults are in work and they still find themselves in poverty as a result of various issues. This was discussed further later in the report during exploration of the role and importance of financial inclusion activities in dealing with child, and equally important 'family' poverty.

7.8 The Cost of Child Poverty - In exploring the cost implications and consequences of not tackling child poverty, Members recognised that the intricacies of the subject made it difficult to truly calculate the cost of child poverty to individuals, society and the wider economy. Estimates had, however, been done and Members were disturbed to find that indications are that the overall cost of child poverty for the UK could be in the region of almost £40 billion a year. This equated 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).

7.9 Bearing in mind the information provided, and the difficulties experienced in accurately calculating the cost of child poverty, the Committee agreed with HM Treasury's belief that the problem in the UK is being underestimated, in terms of its extent and severity.

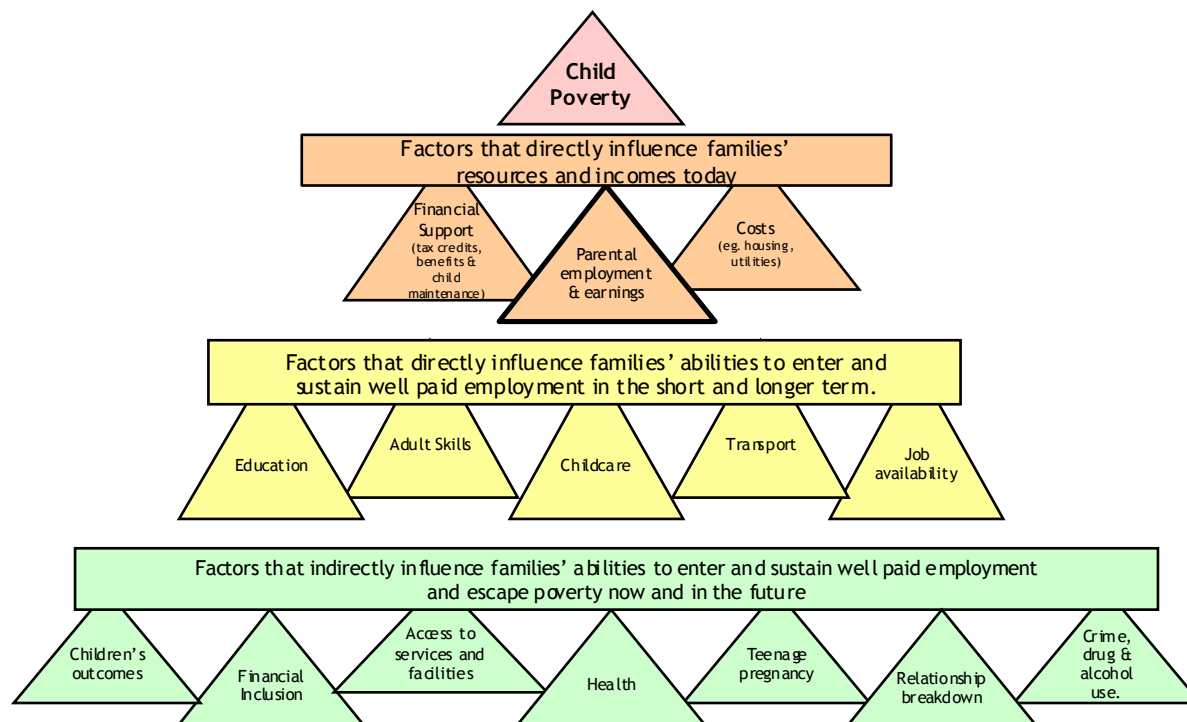
7.10 The Implications / Effects of Child Poverty – During the course of the investigation, Members discussed in detail:-

- i) The role of poverty as a central component of:
 - Inter-generational cycles of worklessness; and
 - Low educational attainment and reduced prosperity.
- ii) The estimated £500 million of additional primary healthcare expenditure required as a direct result of child poverty, with HM Treasury estimating that poor health has wider costs to the economy as a result of sickness absence and lower productivity rates.

7.11 Members strongly supported the importance of education as a means of giving people a pathway out of poverty and commended all those involved in raising educational standards in the town over the past decade. The Committee was, however, aware that Hartlepool still stands 9th out of the audit commission's 'family' of eleven similar authorities for five or more Grade A* to C GCSE's including English and Maths and whilst Hartlepool had moved forward, other areas had too. As such, work needed to continue

to raise educational attainment and the aspirations of young people as a pathway out of poverty. This issue is referred to in greater detail in Section 9.13 of this report.

7.12 Key Factors Influencing Child Poverty



7.13 From the very start of the investigation, Members were fully supportive of doing 'any' and 'all' things necessary to reduce / eradicate child poverty in Hartlepool. It was clear to the Committee that the implications of not achieving this target, as demonstrated below, were completely unacceptable:-

- i) Children exposed to child poverty, hardship and deprivation will suffer. Their own childhood experiences have a significant impact on their ability to operate as an adult in later life. Children born and raised in persistent poverty are likely to have poor children of their own - thus creating a perpetual cycle of deprivation;
- ii) Low educational achievement has a knock on effect on an adult's ability to take up skilled work in the marketplace. This in turn limits the potential productivity of the country as a whole. A lack of skilled workers makes it increasingly difficult for the country to compete in the global economy;
- iii) Some people, but not all, who live in persistent poverty are in danger of turning to crime in order to 'supplement' their income. Crime affects everyone within a community and puts a drain on local resources;
- iv) Children who experience poverty are more likely to develop long term health issues which in turn put a strain on public resources. In addition,

as adults with a long term debilitating health issue they are more likely to remain out of work. Low birth weights, respiratory illnesses, including asthma, mental health issues and obesity have clear links to poverty and cannot be ignored;

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

7.14 How the Cycle can be Broken – Members discovered during the course of the investigation that a major challenge in reducing child poverty is identifying which activities are having a genuine and lasting impact. It was an inarguable fact that improved job opportunities and employment levels for today's parents will impact most quickly on child poverty levels. It was also clear from the evidence provided that those who are healthier and with better qualifications secure better employment in adult life and thus reduce the risk that their children will be brought up in poverty.

7.15 Given this, the Committee recognised that there is no quick fix and that it may be many years before the impact of improved outcomes for today's children is seen in relation to child poverty figures across the town.

8. CHILD POVERTY LEGISLATION AND TARGETS

8.1 In gaining an understanding of child poverty legislation and targets, the Committee was reminded of the Government's commitment to eradicate child poverty from a national baseline of 3.4 million children who were living in poverty during 1998/99. Members supported the Government target to achieve this by 2020 but recognised that it was a challenging prospect.

8.2 In learning about appropriate legislation, the Committee was advised of the publication, in June 2009, of the Child Poverty Bill by the newly established Child Poverty Unit. Members welcomed the intent of the Bill in:-

- i) Enshrining in law the Government's commitment to ending child poverty;
- ii) Setting out a clear framework of accountability at both national and local level, with improving partnership working to tackle the issue; and
- iii) Defining expectations at a strategic level, including:-
 - a) *The provision of a definition of success* - a clear understanding of targets that must be met in order to eradicate child poverty:
 - To reduce the proportion of children who live in relative low income to less than 10%;
 - To reduce the proportion of families who live in material deprivation and have low income to less than 5%;
 - To reduce the proportion of children that experience long periods of poverty; and
 - To reduce the number of children who live in absolute low income to less than 5%.
 - b) *Ensuring targeted and sustained action is taken by everybody* - this includes the Government publishing a UK-wide child poverty strategy to be revised every three years until 2020.
 - c) *Boosting accountability of Government* - this includes Government publishing an annual progress report to Parliament that tracks progress towards targets as well as the establishment of an expert Commission.
 - d) *Specific action by the Devolved Administrations* - this includes Scotland and Northern Ireland publishing their own strategies clearly setting out their intentions and actions.
 - e) *Action at a local level* - the duty on Local Authorities and their partners to prioritise and tackle child poverty in order to improve outcomes for disadvantaged children and their families. This includes conducting a needs assessment and producing a joint local child poverty strategy.

8.3 Although the Bill had not yet received Royal Assent the Committee was supportive of the activities being undertaken in Hartlepool in anticipation of this in early 2010. The work being undertaken was viewed as being especially relevant given the proposal contained within the Bill to amend Section 4 of the Local Government Act 2000, whereby a duty would be placed on local authorities and their partners to co-operate to tackle child poverty in their area, to carry out an assessment of the levels of child poverty in that area, and to prepare a joint local child poverty strategy.

- 8.4 On a local basis, Members were pleased to find that the eradication of child poverty was already a key target in Hartlepool's Local Area Agreement (LAA) for 2008-11, with Hartlepool Borough Council being one of only 45 local authorities in the country to include NI 116 as a priority target. Under this indicator, the Council has a responsibility to respond to reduce the proportion of children in poverty, specifically:-

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

- 8.5 Members welcomed the inclusion of this target, and were further encouraged to see that as part of LAA refresh the 2010/11 target had been revised to be expressed in terms of the gap between Hartlepool and other north east authorities. The designated LA target had been set at 4.8% but a further local inspirational target of reducing the gap to 4.3%, had been set. It was strongly felt that exploration of this issue through Scrutiny had aided in further raising the profile of this issue and hence the setting of a challenging target for the future. Given the challenging nature of the revised LAA target, Members were further encouraged to see that a new outcome was also to be introduced within the Jobs and Economy theme which would be 'Fewer children in Hartlepool experience the effects of poverty'. This outcome was to include the designated target for NI 116 and ensure that the delivery and improvement plan for 2010/11 reflects key elements of the Child Poverty Action Plan.
- 8.6 Over and above the LAA, Members were also exceptionally supportive of the inclusion in the new Sustainable Communities Strategy (2008) which included a clear reinforcement of the importance of child poverty. Within this strategy key objectives were to be set out in relation to "reducing child poverty by helping families to improve their earnings and ensuring they get extra assistance if their incomes fall short".

9. CHILD POVERTY IN HARTLEPOOL

- 9.1 A key element of the Committee's investigation had been the provision of clarification as to the true picture regarding the prevalence of child poverty in Hartlepool, how the situation compares to other areas and the actions being undertaken locally to reduce / eradicate it.

Child Poverty Levels / Statistics in Hartlepool

- 9.2 Evidence provided to the Committee illustrated to the Committee the situation in relation to child poverty (based upon the definition adopted in Hartlepool – as shown in Section 7.4 above) on a Ward by Ward basis. See **Table 1** over the page.

Table 1 - Levels of child poverty at ward level in Hartlepool

Ward name	% of Children in Workless Families	% of Children in Low Income Families
Brus	41.6%	75%
Burn Valley	27.0%	62%
Dyke House	49.8%	83%
Elwick	4.8%	29%
Fens	16.8%	45%
Foggy Furze	39.0%	70%
Grange	29.1%	67%
Greatham	15.7%	50%
Hart	11.0%	34%
Owton	45.1%	81%
Park	5.9%	25%
Rift House	27.2%	68%
Rossmere	29.9%	61%
St. Hilda	40.2%	73%
Seaton	8.2%	32%
Stranton	55.0%	86%
Throston	11.3%	40%

Source: Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit. (Calculated using the numbers of children in families out of work receiving child tax credit)

How the Situation Compare to Other Areas

- 9.3 Evidence provided to the Committee demonstrated that since 2001, child poverty rates in Hartlepool had fluctuated year on year (as shown in **Table 2** below).

Table 2 - Analysis of Children in Working Age Families on Key Benefits (%)*

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

Source: Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit, 2009 - May 2008 figures were unavailable due to Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) Department's data embargo.

- 9.4 The data provided in Table 2, considered in conjunction with employment rates in Hartlepool (as outlined in **Table 3** over the page), provided the Committee with an overall view of the situation in Hartlepool and further demonstrated the correlation between unemployment, financial inclusion and child poverty.

Table 3 - Overall employment rates in Hartlepool compared to the Tees Valley, North East and England (%)*.

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

* year end December

Source: Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit, 2009.

9.5 During the course of the investigation Members discovered that a number of attributing demographic factors impact on the child poverty rate in Hartlepool, with approximately 90,000 people living in the town and 1.2% of the population being from black and minority ethnic communities.

9.6 As an issue of regular discussion, it came as no surprise to the Committee that despite significant regeneration over the past twenty years, the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2007 showed that Hartlepool continues to be ranked as the 23rd most deprived of England's 354 Local Authority districts (with 11 super output areas within the 5% most deprived nationally). Members were, however, concerned to discover what other demographic indicators showed to be the case in Hartlepool:-

- i) 28.6% of children live in households where parents claim a benefit;
- ii) Unemployment in September 2009 stood at 7.1%;
- iii) The youth unemployment percentage rate has increased to 34.3% (count of 1,335) claimants;
- iv) Hartlepool has the second highest number of adults with no qualifications at 16.7% which is above the sub-region (15.4%), region (13.4%) and UK rate (12.4%);
- v) 18,900 (33.7%) of working age adults in Hartlepool are classified as workless (people without work for whatever reason including those not seeking work and residents who are economically inactive) which is above the UK rate (27.9%);
- vi) The number of working age adults on an out-of-work benefit in Hartlepool is 21.2% which compares unfavourably to the Tees Valley rate of 17.5% and the North East rate of 16.5%;
- vii) 12.7% of adults claim an incapacity or other sickness related benefit in Hartlepool with the Neighbourhood Renewal Area rate being 18%;
- viii) 39.4% of the working age population have qualifications to NVQ 3 or above however 16.7% have no qualifications;

- ix) 7.1% of households are in housing need;
- x) Lone parent households rate is 8.7% compared to 6.5% nationally;
- xi) Hartlepool has the second highest teenage pregnancy rate nationally;
- xii) Free school meals rate for 5 to 16 year old pupils is currently 22.4% and is above the national average;
- xiii) 3,443 children aged 3-17 years are recorded by schools as having a Special Educational Need (SEN);
- xiv) People with limiting long term illness rate is 24.4% compared to 18.2% nationally;
- xv) Income support is more than twice the national average in our NRF wards - 8.1% nationally, 12.9% across the town and 19.9% in the NRF wards;
- xvi) In the past 7 years Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disability Allowance claimants rate in the most deprived wards has reduced at a faster rate than the national average. However, it still remains at twice the national average;
- xvii) Hartlepool's overall employment rate currently stands at 63.9%; and
- xviii) The average gross weekly wages for a full time worker is estimated at £461.00.

Actions Being Undertaken in Hartlepool to Reduce / Eradicate Child Poverty

- 9.7 At meetings on the 13 November 2009 and the 10 February 2010, the Committee received detailed evidence from the Child and Adult Services Department and Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department on the actions being undertaken to reduce / eradicate child poverty in Hartlepool (in order to meet the Governments target for 2010).
- 9.8 From the evidence provided it was apparent to the Committee that to reduced child poverty in Hartlepool short, medium and long term planning was needed. In addition to this, the provision of full support from all delivery agencies from the statutory, private and third sector was to be pivotal to the success of any activities. Members were pleased to observe that the need for this joined up approach had already been identified by the Council several months ago, with work already underway on the development of a Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan in advance of information from Government as part of the progress of the Child Poverty Bill. In addition to this the Committee fully supported the Council's decision to sign up to the Child Poverty Pledge on the 25th February 2010.
- 9.9 Looking in greater detail at the content of the draft Child Poverty Strategy, Members expressed their full support for the six key objectives to be contained within it, as detailed below:-
- i) Ensure that children that live in poverty are safe;
 - ii) Increase the parental employment rate;
 - iii) Improve skills levels;
 - iv) Increase the benefit take up rate (including in-work and out-of-work benefits);
 - v) Prevent those at risk from falling into poverty; and

- vi) Where it is evident that a family is experiencing poverty take action to mitigate its effect.
- 9.10 The Committee reiterated the importance of collaborative working in reaching the objectives of the strategy and, as such, the need to place great emphasis on obtaining the support of delivery agents from the statutory, private and third sector. On this basis, Members welcomed indications that an extensive consultation process had been undertaken with key partner involvement in the development of an overall town wide action plan, which had recently been updated to reflect information received from the Child Poverty Unit.
- 9.11 As an issue of key importance the Committee acknowledged the importance of maintaining momentum. In doing this, Members were advised and supported the creation of an interim Officer led working group to move forward joint working on child poverty. Members were please to hear that these interim arrangements had been put in place (pending detailed guidance which is expected to accompany the Child Poverty Bill) and agreed with the outcome of discussions so far that whilst eradicating child poverty is a momentus task, significant steps can be made if partners work together to reduce poverty across the town. In achieving this, Members felt very strongly that partners must be involved in the work of the Working Group.
- 9.12 Members received detailed evidence in relation to the specific activities and services provided by the Child and Adult Services Department and Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department. In considering these services (a summary of which is provided at **Appendix A**) the Committee was impressed to find that:-

Comments on Child and Adult Services Department Services / Activities

- i) The issue of child poverty is tackled through a universal, preventative and targeted approach;
- ii) Whilst arguably all of the Child and Adult Services Department's work has an impact on child poverty, emphasis is placed upon the need to eradicate child poverty as a fundamental aspect of the Children and Young People's Plan;
- iii) Members were particularly interested in those services provided through SureStart Children's Centres relating to money management and the issue of financial inclusion (discussed in greater detail later in the report);
- iv) The promotion of childcare choices and information on affordable childcare including Tax Credits was seen as a key element of the work of The Families Information Service Hartlepool (FISH) by Members The provision of sufficient / affordable / flexible childcare, childminders, out of school and holiday support was also recognised by the Committee as being key to in helping children and young people to enjoy and achieve, whilst also enabling parents to work and train in order to secure economic wellbeing;

- v) Members felt strongly that the issue of *educational attainment* is a pivotal issue in reducing future child poverty levels and essential for all Hartlepool children if they are to go on to lead fulfilling, economically viable lives. The Committee was please to find that:
 - Achievement in Hartlepool had improved year on year with 73.5% of Hartlepool students achieving five or more A* - C grades and 98% of pupils achieving at least one GCSE in summer 2009; and
 - Hartlepool was now 6.4% above the national average with a 22% cumulative improvement over the past four years.
- iv) Members were provided with an understanding of the breadth of after school services and facilities available for children, young people, their families and the local community, Members were very interested to hear about the positive link between these extended services and improved pupil attainment, self-confidence, motivation and attendance and reduced exclusion rates. All of which have a longer term influence on levels of child poverty in the town;
- vi) Members expressed support for the work of the youth service in supporting the personal and social development of young people aged 13-19 years through the provision of information, advice and guidance; promotion of positive activities, empowerment of young people and provision of targeted youth support for the most vulnerable young people in need.
- vii) In considering the activities of the Connexions service, the Committee was supportive of the provision of free, impartial and confidential, information, advice and guidance for young people (aged 13-19 years) and their parents and carers (to help support their children in making good life choices).

Comments on Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department Services / Activities

- i) Members noted with interest the 26 Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) projects currently being delivered in Hartlepool by partners from the public and voluntary sector, with a number of them being significantly successful in targeting and engaging parents with dependent children who require support to progress into employment or self-employment;
- ii) Members were particularly impressed with the success of the Future Jobs Fund, with indications that in Hartlepool approximately 150 people were being employed through the fund; and
- iii) Members were impressed with the success of the New Futures (previously Building Futures) scheme in engaging with over 400 residents across the Tees Valley since August 2009 (87 of which had moved into employment and 20 registered on to nationally recognised qualifications).

- 9.13 In considering the evidence provided, Members were impressed with the level and variety of services provided by the department, and was of the view that this was a good starting point for the future delivery / development of services to reduce / eradicate child poverty.

Delivery of Services through Partner Organisations and Other Voluntary Sector Organisations

- 9.14 As part of the investigation, the Committee extended invitations to a variety of partner organisations and groups to participate in the process. At its meeting on the 19 March 2010 the Committee welcomed representatives from the Children's Trust, Manor Residents Association and Connected Care.
- 9.15 In considering the evidence provided by each of the groups, around the services they provide, the Committee also explored the group's views in relation to the work being undertaken in Hartlepool around Child Poverty and what else it was felt needed to be done to tackle the issue. During the course of discussions the Committee was particularly impressed with the services provided through Connected Care with over 1,000 people reached each year and over £3/4m in additional benefits raised.
- 9.16 Members were in total agreement that the provision of collaborative working, with the provision of support services based through community organisations, was a fundamental factor in successfully dealing with the child poverty issue. In addition to this, the Committee emphasised the importance of providing advice and guidance on a face to face basis, wherever feasible. This view was reinforced by the success of the additional £30,000 worth of investment in the provision of face to face advice and guidance in raising an additional £750,000 worth of benefits (as referenced in Section 9.15 of the report).
- 9.17 Members were concerned to discover, from the groups in attendance that despite their efforts there continued to be a significant amount of unmet need within the community. Looking at the work undertaken through Connected Care, Members were supportive of its activities being 'rolled out' across the town and the importance of utilising the skills, experience and connections of community groups and organisations across the area. In doing this it was, however, recognised that services need to be adequately resourced in order for them to be effective. Following on from this, whilst Members of the Committee recognised the Council's current budgetary position, emphasis was placed upon the importance of providing preventative services and the need to 'invest to save' to ensure the future eradication of child poverty in Hartlepool.
- 9.18 During the course of discussion it became apparent to the Committee that whilst a wide variety of services are provided, which could be effectively tapped in to, not all organisations were aware of the services provided. In light of this, Members were of the view that a more joined up approach would be beneficial, through the sharing of information, and it was suggested that a

‘mapping’ exercise of services needed to be undertaken to ensure that all organisations are aware of the services available. Attention was also drawn to the importance of community and voluntary sector being able access funding and the role the local authority could play in helping identify grants / funding and the provision of support in completing applications.

- 9.19 In looking at the issue of partnership working, the Committee expressed concern regarding the impact on families of utilities being disconnected and the occurrence of instances where benefit cheques are not cashed. Both of which are indicators of families in need or possible poverty.
- 9.20 Whilst it was noted that there is a responsibility to maintain utility services where families have children under the age of 5 years old, The Committee was surprised to find that there was no requirement to notify the Council or any of its partners when families are disconnected. It was also noted that a route of communication does not exist for the transmission of information where appropriate benefits are not being claimed. In light of this, it was suggested that ways of working with utility providers, benefits agencies and other bodies needed to be explored to facilitate the transmission of information to the Council where families are in need of assistance and at risk of falling in to poverty. It was felt that this could be a positive way of identifying families that need help at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 9.21 The Committee also discussed the capacity of the Council to become involved in schemes for the provision of things such as household items, both new and second hand, at a reasonable cost to residents. Members felt strongly that the provision of services like this through the Council could be a major factor in helping to prevent vulnerable families and individuals from being drawn into high cost finance deals. This was an issue also raised by the Committee during the course of this year’s Budget setting process and one which Members were keen to see explored, with the proviso that there was a business case that would justify any possible initial start up expenditure.

The importance of Financial Inclusion in preventing child poverty

- 9.22 During the course of the investigation continued emphasis had been placed by Members, officers and Portfolio Holders on the impact of debt as a primary contributory factor to child poverty. In light of this, Members at their meeting on the 12 February 2010 received a detailed presentation in relation to the issue of financial inclusion and the role and activities of the Financial Inclusion Partnership (FIP) in helping prevent family / child poverty.
- 9.23 Evidence provided to the Committee, demonstrated the activities of the FIP:-
- i) Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) Priorities;
 - ii) Increase access to banking, affordable credit and face to face money advice; and
 - iii) The establishment of a Financial Inclusion Task Force and Financial Inclusion Fund.

9.24 Other information provided showed:-

- i) A definition of Financial Exclusion as having no assets, no savings, no insurance, no bank account, no affordable credit, no access to money advice;
- ii) 6.1 million families report difficulties meeting debt repayments and household bills;
- iii) A reliance on mail-order catalogues, doorstep and illegal lenders;
- iv) Since 2006 third sector lenders e.g. Credit Unions and Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFI) have made 46,000 low cost loans;
- v) Research shows that the under 40's have lower financial capability; and
- vi) Under 25's more vulnerable when making financial decisions.

9.25 Members were shocked to discover that:-

- i) 47% of all households in the Borough have a poor credit rating;
- ii) Hartlepool is in bottom 50 of over 400 local authority areas in UK;
- iii) CAB and West View Advice Resource Centre report 85% of enquiries are money advice/debt related;
- iv) Applications for Debt Relief Orders and bankruptcies are increasing rapidly;
- v) 5 out of 9 households fall into groups described as 'on the breadline', 'credit hungry' or 'elderly deprivation';
- vi) 26% of the population in Hartlepool described as on the breadline households;
 - vii) 13.7% of the population in Hartlepool described as credit hungry families; and
 - viii) 15.2% of the population in Hartlepool described as elderly deprivation families.

9.26 Members drew particular attention to the need to identify alternative methods of communication to publicise the services available generally and in particular those offered by the Financial Inclusion Partnership. It was suggested by the Committee that an option for this could be to include information on annual council tax envelopes, providing practical examples of price comparisons to assist lenders in making the right choice.

9.27 Based on the evidence provided, the Committee placed emphasis on the importance of the Council working in partnership with other agencies, with a view to securing capital investment to relieve financial poverty and assist families in need. Members also highlighted the importance of the Financial Inclusion Partnership and were delighted to see that this view was shared by full Council with the identification of additional funding through this year's budget process.

10. EVIDENCE FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

10.1 As part of the Committee's investigation invitations were extended to the Portfolio Holders with responsibility for the following areas:

- Transport and Neighbourhoods;
- Regeneration and Economic Development;
- Culture, Leisure and Tourism;
- Children's Services; and
- Adult and Public Health Services.

10.2 The Committee, at its meeting on the 13 November 2009, received evidence from the Children's Services Portfolio Holder. The Portfolio Holder drew the Committee's attention to the inclusion of the requirement for the eradication of child poverty as a key part of the Children and Young People's Plan and also the importance of safeguarding services.

10.3 The Children's Services Portfolio Holder acknowledged that child poverty levels in Hartlepool remain too high and indicated that this was reflected through the inclusion of child improvement as a key improvement target in the Local Area Agreement. Members were also reminded:-

- i) Of the local authority's success in securing new jobs and raising educational attainment, both of which have a huge effect in helping eradicate child poverty, and the need to continue these activities as a key way forward;
- ii) That the Children's Services Department will continue to work with schools on raising educational attainment to help improve children and young people's chances in life regardless of their home or social background; and
- iii) Awareness must be raised of the benefits available to educate people as to when it is appropriate to borrow money and when it was not.

10.4 The Committee, at its meeting on the 12 February 2010, received evidence from the Adult and Public Health Portfolio Holder. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that his role was to respond to town wide issues which included deprivation in terms of poverty and health and whilst attention was drawn to the area of deprivation in the Town, Members noted his concerns that poverty exists in more affluent areas as well. The Committee welcomed the Portfolio Holder's support in terms of the need to continue to set and pursue challenging targets for the eradication of child poverty and address the impact of:

- i) Unclaimed benefits;
- ii) Benefits stigma;
- iii) Lack of budgeting and cooking skills;
- iv) Fuel poverty.

10.5 The Portfolio Holder placed emphasis on the importance of the local authority in continuing to work in partnership with other sectors to raise awareness and the need for the impact of child / family poverty to be a consideration in all Council decisions (included as a standard item on all Council reports). Attention was also drawn to the need to be aware of the

child poverty issue as part of all and any contract negotiations undertaken by the Council. Members concurred with this view and shared the Portfolio Holder's support for the effectiveness of the activities of 'Connected Care' in the town as a demonstration of what the voluntary sector can do to bridge the gap between individuals and professionals.

- 10.6 The Committee, at its meeting on the 5 February 2010, received evidence from the Mayor and Regeneration and Economic Development Portfolio Holder. Members noted that the issue of child poverty affected nearly every part of the Mayor's role and welcomed an indication that in his role as chair of the Local Strategic Partnership great emphasis is placed upon the need to ensure that all the partner organisations understood their role in tackling child poverty.
- 10.7 The Mayor highlighted the need for child poverty to be a priority for all partners and mirrored views previously expressed by the Committee in relation to the time lag between the implementation of services / improvements and seeing the culmination of a successful outcome in reducing child poverty. The Mayor also highlighted:-
- i) That household income is a major issue in the town, with unemployment an ongoing concern;
 - ii) The positive impact of Surestart in helping address the issue; and
 - iii) Cabinet's commitment to taking consideration of the impact of child poverty in all decision making.
- 10.8 The Committee agreed with the Mayor in that whilst considerable work was being undertaken, there continued to be areas for improvement. Members were encouraged to find that the importance of child poverty had already been recognised through the recent budget consultation and reference was made to the action plan being developed ahead of new government policy (as mentioned earlier in the report). The Mayor also reported that he was to sign the Child Poverty Pledge on behalf of the town on 25 February.
- 10.9 The Mayor indicated that whilst the Financial Inclusion Partnership was doing some excellent work, debt was still a major contributory factor and for many a taboo subject. Members were disappointed to hear that the Council had been lobbying Ministers for three years, to allow local authorities to set up banking and loans schemes with no avail. Despite this, the Committee was supportive of the work being undertaken with people who are in debt with council tax, etc and also the Council's commitment to pay its bills within ten days to assist local businesses.
- 10.10 The Mayor drew attention to the activities of Councillor Hargreaves (Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development) as a high profile participant in work around Child Poverty, on a local and regional basis through the Association of North East Councils Child Poverty Task and Finish Group.
- 10.11 Councillor Hargreaves took the opportunity to commend officers from ANEC on their support in carrying out the work of the group and producing

the final report. Members noted that when the task and finish group was set up it was quite evident that given the massive nature of this agenda that work was only going to scratch the surface of the issue.

- 10.12 Through her work with the group, Members were pleased to find that Councillor Hargreaves has seen through many of the studies that Hartlepool is already doing many of the things mentioned. This included the activities of the work of the Credit Union and Members joined with the Portfolio Holder in commending the activities of all of those people in the authority that are dedicated to this task.
- 10.13 Councillor Hargreaves agreed with the Committee in that a considerable amount of work is being undertaken. It was, however, accepted by all that more action is now needed and Councillor Hargreaves indicated that she would like to see the advisory group putting pressure on central government to address this issue in a co-ordinated manner with the finance to support it in the long-term. The Committee fully supported this view.

11 HOW CHILD POVERTY IS BEING DEALT WITH REGIONALLY / NATIONALLY

- 11.1 The Committee as part of its investigation found it beneficial to obtain a clear understanding of the work being undertaken elsewhere in relation to child poverty.

Activities undertaken regionally and nationally

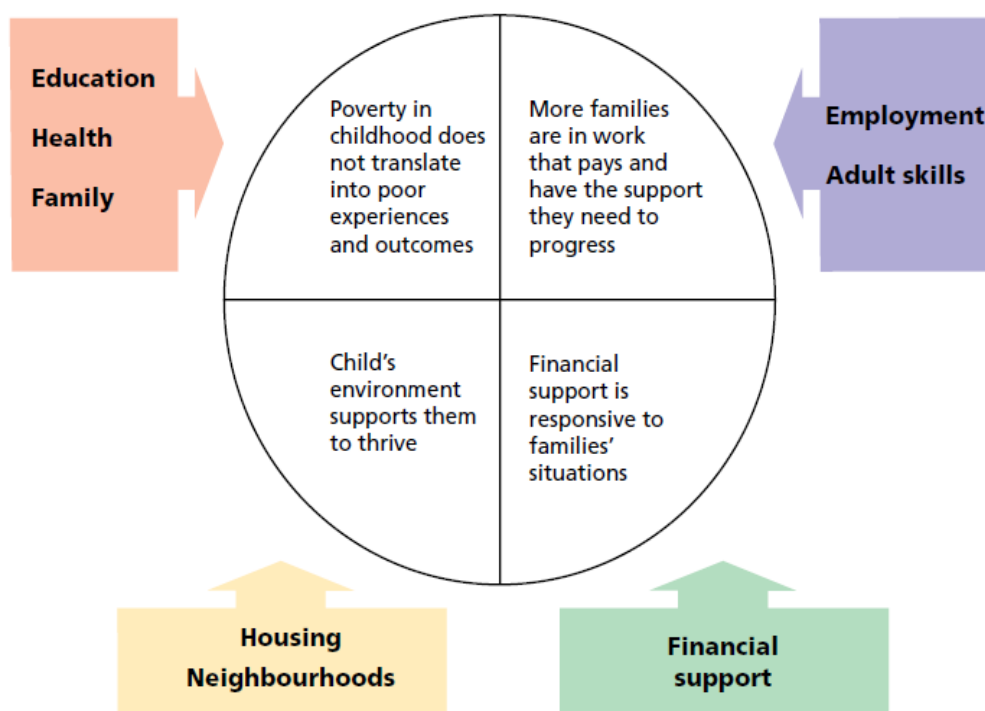
- 11.2 Members at the meeting held on the 5 February 2010 received evidence from the Association of North East Councils (ANEC) and Government Office North East (GONE) outlining their activities in relation to child poverty.
- 11.3 Evidence from **ANEC** drew the Committee's attention to the work of its Tackling Child Poverty Task and Finish Group and Members were delighted to see a Councillor from Hartlepool (Councillor Pamela Hargreaves) as Chair of the body. Members learned that this member led group had in recognition of the breadth of the issue decided to look at an overview of the issue. Members agreed with this approach and in relation to their own investigation agreed that this should just be the start of the process, with more specific areas to be looked at in detail in the coming years.
- 11.4 Members were delighted to find that Hartlepool's Credit Union was one scheme that was seen as an excellent project by ANEC and agreed with the view that in general there are still not enough families on low incomes accessing this type of support. In terms of Hartlepool's work and how it should be taken forward, it was confirmed that ANEC are the lobbying and advisory body which could assist in linking into the work of other authorities to share best practice.
- 11.5 Taking into consideration the comment of the Chair of the ANEC Child Poverty Task and Finish Group (Councillor Hargreaves), the Committee

recognised the value of looking in greater detail at the recommendations of the group. To facilitate this, Members received details of how the recommendations of the group were being progressed locally, as outlined in **Appendix B**. In considering the recommendations, the Committee concluded that the outcomes were critically important and as such supported their being taken on board by the local authority.

Evidence of Good Practice

- 11.6 Members were pleased to hear that Councils are starting to tackle this issue 'head-on' and agreed that there needed to be support nationally, i.e. perhaps Government legislation limiting interest rates that could be legally charged by loans and other companies, to help those on low incomes.
- 11.7 Evidence from the **Government Office North East (GONE)** highlighted the need for local authorities and partner organisations to produce Needs Assessments and Strategies and as an example of good practice drew attention to work in Newcastle City Council as a Beacon Authority. Attention was also drawn to **Table 3** below, which clearly demonstrates the building blocks for the eradication of child poverty.

Table 3 (Source - GONE)



- 11.8 In exploring 'good practice' a number of members attended a Beacon Open Day hosted by Newcastle Council, on the 26 January 2010. During the event, the following workshops were attended.
- i) Insight into One Newcastle Parent's Journey From Inactivity to Employment;

- ii) Tackling Fuel Poverty: Newcastle City Council and Newcastle Warm Zone;
- iii) Raising Parental Aspirations through Sure Start Children's Centres.
- iv) How Can We Help to Stop the Year On Year Rise in Childhood Obesity and Help Our Communities Have Fun on the Journey?
- v) Income Maximisation for Children and Their Families Including Benefit and Tax Credit Take Up;
- vi) The Family As A Learning Environment: Newcastle Family Learning's Contribution to Promoting A Culture of Aspiration and Economic Wellbeing in Families; and
- vii) The Role of Community Entrepreneurs in Developing Pathways out of Poverty: Exploring the Approach of the Tyne Gateway project.

11.9 Members noted with interest that during the course of the day it was evident that the key lesson to be learned from the experiences of Newcastle Council was the need for a strategic approach to the reduction of child poverty, to be driven by the Council and Local Strategic Partnership with resources being targeted for the most vulnerable groups and deprived areas. Members supported this view and were pleased to be able to conclude, as already indicated by the Portfolio Holder that many of the examples of good practice in place in Newcastle had already been tried or were already in place in Hartlepool. As such there were not specific examples of good practice that could be suggested for further exploration.

11.10 In addition to attendance at the Beacon Day, in exploring good practice, the Chair of the Committee also attended two seminars to identify possible further improvements to the already exceptional financial inclusion services already on offer in the town. These seminars were 'Helping Communities Deal with Debt: Understanding Money and Tackling Credit Problems' and the Northern Money Conference 2010 – Finance for All.

11.11 Evidence considered by the Committee following attendance at these conferences reinforced the correctness of the approach being undertaken in Hartlepool, with emphasis placed upon the following as key objectives in tackling child poverty and financial inclusion:-

- i) Achieving effective partnership working;
- ii) Provision of effective education (financial and other in terms of raising aspirations);
- iii) Raising awareness of the services / solutions available to relieve financial poverty; and
- iv) The need to reach families in need.

11.12 Member noted with interest national recognition of the importance of embracing prevention, intervention and sustainability services as a key component of any process to effectively reduce poverty in families. Members supported this view and recognised the importance of financial inclusion services as a key component in prevention and intervention activities.

- 11.13 In looking at the evidence provided from these conferences, and the variety of activities undertaken around financial exclusion and child poverty prevention, Members were impressed with activities undertaken by both Leeds and Newcastle Councils. Given this, Members felt that as part of any further investigations into the child poverty / financial inclusion issue evidence should be sought from these authorities to explore examples of good practice.

12 CONCLUSIONS

12.1 The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee concluded:-

- a) That the absence of a single clear definition of child poverty, against which success (or otherwise) in dealing with the issue across sectors can be measured, is a real concern;
- b) That partners should be involved in all aspects of the work of the Child Poverty Working Group if it is, in turn, the Council's activities are to be successful;
- c) That it is recognised that there are no 'quick fix' solutions and that it may be many years before the impact of improved outcomes for today's children is seen in relation to child poverty figures across the town;
- d) That a wide variety of services are provided which could be effectively tapped into to help deal with the issue of child poverty, however, not all organisations were aware of the services provided. In light of this, a 'mapping' exercise of services is needed to ensure that all organisations are aware of the services available;
- e) That given ANEC's role as the lobbying and advisory body in relation to this issue, the Council should utilise the skills and knowledge it has to assist in linking into the work of other authorities to share best practice;
- f) That the roll out of the work of Connected Care across the town should be supported with the proviso that the service is adequately resourced in order to ensure its continued effectiveness;
- g) That given the importance of community and voluntary sector being able to access funding emphasis needs to be placed upon the role of the local authority in helping identify grants / funding and the provision of support in completing applications.
- h) That ways of working with utility providers, benefits agencies and other bodies need to be explored to facilitate the transmission of information to the Council where families are in need of assistance and at risk of falling into poverty;
- i) That the capacity of the Council to become involved in schemes for the provision of things such as household items, both new and second hand,

at a reasonable cost to residents should be explored as a means of helping prevent vulnerable families and individuals from being drawn into high cost finance deals;

- j) That whilst Members of the Committee recognised the Council's current budgetary position, emphasis needs to be placed upon the importance of providing preventative services and the need to 'invest to save' to ensure the future eradication of child poverty in Hartlepool;
- k) That updates be presented to Scrutiny on the activities of the Child Poverty Working Group at regular intervals;
- l) That emphasis must be placed upon the importance of the local authority in continuing to work in partnership with other sectors to raise awareness;
- m) That in ensuring that the impact of child / family poverty is reflected in all aspects of the Council's decisions and work:
 - reference to 'child poverty' be included as a standard item on all Council reports; and
 - a review of the Commissioning of Services should be undertaken to ensure that 'child poverty' is considered as a separate clause within any contract.
- n) That the recommendations of the ANEC Child Poverty Task and Finish Group be supported and taken forward wherever possible; and
- o) That given the breadth of the child poverty issue, this investigation should be viewed as a starting point with more specific areas to be looked at in greater detail by Scrutiny over the coming years.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee has taken evidence from a range of sources to assist in the formulation of a balanced range of recommendations. The Committee's key recommendations to the Cabinet are as outlined below:

- a) That a 'mapping' exercise of services be undertaken to ensure that all organisations are aware of the services available;
- b) That given ANEC's role as the lobbying and advisory body in relation to this issue, the Council should utilise the skills and knowledge it has to assist in linking into the work of other authorities to share best practice;
- c) That ways of working with utility providers, benefits agencies and other bodies be explored to facilitate the transmission of information to the Council where families are in need of assistance and at risk of falling in to poverty;

- d) That the capacity of the Council to become involved in schemes for the provision of things such as household items, both new and second hand, at a reasonable cost to residents should be explored as a means of helping prevent vulnerable families and individuals from being drawn into high cost finance deals;
- e) That updates be presented to Scrutiny on progress in tackling child poverty at regular intervals;
- f) That in ensuring that the impact of child / family poverty is reflected in all aspects of the Council's decisions and work:
 - reference to 'child poverty' be included as a standard item on all Council reports; and
 - a review of the Commissioning of Services should be undertaken to ensure that 'child poverty' is considered as a separate clause within any contract.
- g) That the recommendations of the ANEC Child Poverty Task and Finish Group be supported and taken forward wherever possible.

14. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 14.1 The Committee 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 Committee. In particular the Committee would like to thank the following for their co-operation during the scrutiny review:-

Hartlepool Borough Council:-

Kelly Moss, Children's Trust Manager
 Sue Johnson, Assistant Director (Planning and Service Integration)
 John Lovatt, Acting Assistant Director (Operations)
 Jeff Mason, Head of Support Services
 Antony Steinberg, Economic Development Manager
 Patrick Wilson, Employment Development Officer
 Carole Jones, Financial Inclusion Partnership

External Representatives:-

Angie Wilcox, Manor Residents Association
 Kevin McAuley and Peter Carroll, Connected Care
 Louise Wallace, NHS Hartlepool

**COUNCILLOR MARJORIE JAMES
CHAIR OF THE SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE**

APRIL 2010

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (a) HM Treasury (2004) *Child Poverty Review*, July
- (b) Department for Work and Pensions (2009) *Child Poverty*, Available from: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/child-poverty> (Accessed 13 August 2009)
- (c) Child Poverty Action Group (October 2008) *Child Poverty: The Stats - Analysis of the Latest Poverty Statistics*, Available from: http://www.cpag.org.uk/info/briefings_policy/CPAG_poverty_the_stats_1008.pdf (Accessed 14 August 2009)
- (d) Communities and Local Government (2009) *Local Priorities Web site*, Available from: <http://www.localpriorities.communities.gov.uk/NIResults.aspx?NIRef=NI%20116> (Accessed 14 August 2009)
- (e) Child Poverty Bill 2008-09 (June 2009), Available from: http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/112/en/09112x-.htm#index_link_1 (Accessed 14 August 2009)
- (f) Department for Work and Pensions (March 2008), *Ending Child Poverty: Everybody's Business*, Available from: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/bud08_childpoverty_1310.pdf (Accessed 14 August 2009)
- (g) Department for Work and Pensions (December 2003) *Measuring Child Poverty*, Available from: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/final-conclusions.pdf> (Accessed 14 August 2009)
- (h) Department for Work and Pensions (2009) *Child Poverty*, Available from: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/child-poverty> (Accessed 13 August 2009)
- (i) Hartlepool Borough Council (2008), *Sustainable Communities Strategy*
- (j) Her Majesty Revenue and Customs, *Annual Report 2008-09*.
- (k) Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit (2009), various statistics
- (l) Trade Union Congress (2007), *Cutting the Costs of Child Poverty*
- (m) Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Donald Hirsch (October 2008), *Estimating the costs of child poverty*.
- (n) Child Poverty Unit (2009), *Ending Child Poverty: making it happen*.

Child and Adult Services Department Activities

The Committee received detailed information in relation to the following activities:-

- i) *SureStart Children's Centres*. In discussing the services provided, Members were impressed with the wide range of tailor made advice and support activities provided for parents, carers and their families and expressed support for the level of collaborative working undertaken through the centres.
- ii) *The Families Information Service Hartlepool (FISH)*. A key element of the work of this body was the promotion of childcare choices and information on affordable childcare including Tax Credits. The provision of sufficient / affordable / flexible childcare, childminders, out of school and holiday support were as key to in helping children and young people to enjoy and achieve, whilst also enabling parents to work and train in order to secure economic wellbeing.
- iii) *Educational Activities – Educational Attainment*. Achievement in Hartlepool had improved year on year with 73.5% of Hartlepool students achieving five or more A* - C grades and 98% of pupils achieving at least one GCSE in summer 2009. Hartlepool was now 6.4% above the national average with a 22% cumulative improvement over the past four years.
- iv) *Educational Activities – After School Provision*. After school services and facilities are available for children, young people, their families and the local community.
- v) *Youth Services*. Youth service provide support for the personal and social development of young people aged 13-19 years through the provision of information, advice and guidance; promotion of positive activities, empowerment of young people and provision of targeted youth support for the most vulnerable young people in need.
- vi) *Connexions*. In considering the activities of the Connexions service, the Committee was supportive of the provision of free, impartial and confidential, information, advice and guidance for young people (aged 13-19 year) and their parents and carers (to help support their children in making good life choices).

In addition to the services / activities outlined above, Members were interested to find that a wide range of other important services are provided by the Child and Adult Services Department that have an impact on reducing child poverty. These included:-

- vii) The 'team around the primary school' and 'team around the secondary school' - established to ensure early identification of children and families with a range of additional needs and ensure they receive co-ordinated support.
- viii) Aiming High for Disabled Children - a project to support improved short break opportunities for children with disabilities. As this is a group of children at particular risk of being in poverty the aim of the project is to ensure that universal services are accessible to these children and their parents.

APPENDIX A

- ix) Inclusion of children with special educational needs (SEN) – as a group at risk of poorer outcomes in adult life, working in partnership with schools a strong policy for inclusive education has been developed and children in Hartlepool with SEN are achieving well when compared to national figures. (The gap between children with special needs and those without special needs at the end of primary school was 43% in Hartlepool compared to 51% nationally, (as measured by Key stage 4 tests for English and maths combined in 2008). The gap between pupils with special needs and those without at the end of secondary schooling was 41% compared to 45.6% nationally (as measured by 5 grades A* - C at GCSE in 2008)).
- x) The Leaving Care Team - Based in the same building as the Connexions service, strengthening the support for care leavers to ensure they have the best possible opportunity to achieve economic well being as they move to independence. In addition to this, a supported lodgings scheme is in the process of being developed to support the accommodation needs of vulnerable young people.
- xi) The Healthy Schools Standard has been promoted in Hartlepool schools and 100% are engaged. Initiatives have included engagement with parents. Improved child health supports good school attendance and improved adult health will help people remain in employment.

Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department Specific Activities

The Committee received evidence on the following array of activities and services led by the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department's Economic Development Service:-

- i) *The Working Neighbourhood Funding (WNF)* – Funded as part of the Government's determination to break the cycle between worklessness and lack of economic growth and regenerate in some of the country's most deprived areas, a total of £15,469,646 of WNF has been allocated over the three year period (2008 – 2011). There are currently 26 WNF projects (under the Jobs & the Economy Theme) being delivered in Hartlepool by partners from the public and voluntary sector, with a number of them being significantly successful in targeting and engaging parents with dependent children who require support to progress into employment or self-employment.
- (g) *Hartlepool Working Solutions* – Offers a range of employment related activities that facilitate a joined up approach to service delivery in the NRS area. Hartlepool Working Solutions has seven separate elements:
 - Targeted Training;
 - Women's Opportunities;
 - Jobs Build;
 - Work Route (ILM);
 - Enhancing Employability;

- Progression to Work; and
 - Work Smart.
- (h) *The Opportunities Programme* – Project designed to prepare local residents who are thinking about returning to work and who are on IB, ESA or Job Seekers Allowance (JSA). The main target group are residents who have already been referred from Jobcentre Plus to a Condition Management Programme (CMP).
- (i) *Hartlepool Works* – This is Hartlepool's Employment and Skills Consortium with a current membership of over 40 employment and training providers from the public, private and voluntary sector. The network is made up of organisations that help residents to access employment and training opportunities. Hartlepool Works and Jobsmart is managed by Hartlepool Borough Council who provides an overarching management role.
- (j) *Connect2Work* - A pilot project established in 2007, in partnership with Connexions, which offers pre-employment programmes and ILM placements to young people aged 18 to 24 years who have been long term unemployed (with particular focus on lone parents and care leavers). Dedicated C2W Advisers engage with the individual and where appropriate the family to raise aspirations and encourage positive peer pressure, with the aim of moving the whole family unit into employment.
- (k) *Community Justice Project* - The Community Justice Court and Innovation project is being developed, in partnership with Economic Development, to deliver offender focused problem solving for those attending court hearings.
- (l) *Employer Gateway and Tall Ships Race 2010* - Following the announcement that Hartlepool would host the Tall Ships Race in 2010, which will attract an estimated 1 million visitors over a four day period. The Passionate About Skills Working Group and The Tall Ships Group were amalgamated in 2008 to review local labour market issues and skills requirements of the Hospitality, Tourism and Retail sector and to identify the emerging volunteering, employment and training opportunities for residents through the event and major regeneration programmes relevant to the sector.
- (m) *Future Jobs Fund* - This project will work in partnership with the public, private and third sector to create jobs within identified future growth sectors including Hospitality and Tourism, Renewable Energy, Health and Social Care and Green Jobs. The project is set to create 720 extra jobs with 75% of these jobs sustained beyond the initial six month period. £4,680,000 of FJF was requested with £1,530,116 additional funding matched. Initially the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has contracted with the Council for 500 starts over the period of October 2009 to 31 March 2010, with an additional 220 starts to be re-negotiated shortly. Members were particularly impressed with the success of the project, with indications that in Hartlepool approximately 150 people were being employed through the FJF.

APPENDIX A

- (n) *New Futures (previously Building Futures)* - This partnership between the five local authorities within the Tees Valley area has secured Single Programme Funding for two years and has been re-designed to develop ILMs and apprenticeships in potential growth areas, such as the Chemicals Industry. Members were impressed with the schemes success in engaging with over 400 residents across the Tees Valley since August 2009. Of these, 87 individuals have moved into employment and 20 registered on to nationally recognised qualifications.
- (o) *The Construction Employer Integrator (CEI) Project* - Using a forecasting model to provide the number and types of jobs individual projects will create (identifying where there will be skills gaps and job opportunities) the partnership will respond to the employers demand by delivering sector specific training programmes that will lead to routes to sector specific employment opportunities. This forecasting model is highly successful and is being rolled out to other sectors.
- (p) *Regional Improvement & Efficiency Partnership / Local Authorities (LA)* - Economic Development is working with the above to develop and promote LA procurement and planning processes to include targeted recruitment and training for local residents and business supply side activity. Linking to supply side activity of New Futures and also developing process in planning for new hospital development for Tees Valley (Wynyard) and the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) projects in Hartlepool.
- (q) *The Going Forward Project* - A partnership between Hartlepool Borough Council Children's Services, Economic Development Department and the Connexions Service. It is a European Social Fund / Learning and Skills Council Co-financed project, managed by Tees Valley Works who lead on all contractual matters relating to project delivery.
- (r) *Core Services for Local Businesses* – The Economic Development Hartlepool Enterprise Team provides core services for local businesses that create significant employment and training opportunities for the residents of Hartlepool.
- (s) *Support for Businesses in the Recession* - Additional services and resources have been made available to support local businesses affected by the recession.
- (t) *Support for New Start Up Businesses and Enterprise Initiatives* - Hartlepool continues to develop its support to new start up businesses and enterprise initiatives through a number of interventions which will improve the self-employment rate. This includes the WNF project 'Incubation System and Business Skills.

APPENDIX A

- (u) *Future Employment Opportunities linked to Major Regeneration Programmes* - Economic Development has details of inward investment projects and regeneration initiatives and are actively involved in developing and implementing local labour and business planning agreements with key businesses and developers. This information has been utilised to plan with partners and employers jobs that could be created and the training required to meet the skills demands and future sustainable job opportunities.
- (v) *Effectiveness of the Economic Development Activities* - The effectiveness of the programmes identified is supported by the results between the period 2008/09 with over 1,661 businesses being assisted, 132 business start ups, 1,123 residents accessing training and 942 supported into employment. Alongside this the Department continues to lead on Hartlepool Enterprise Centre and Queens Meadow Business Park which are fully operational with waiting lists on both properties and The Longhill and Sandgate Business Improvement District which is fully established and continues to operate successfully.
- (w) *Flexible New Deal* - The FJF coincides with the Flexible New Deal programme which commenced in October 2009 and will provide intensive support for adults who have reached the 12 months stage of unemployment. A4E and Working Links are the prime providers for FND in Hartlepool and Economic Development has been working closely with both organisations to ensure that this new provision adds value to existing activities.
- (x) *Young Persons Guarantee* - The 2009 Budget announced the Young Person's Guarantee. This guarantees all 18 to 24 year olds who are coming towards the 12 month stage of their claim to Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA).

APPENDIX B

Progress / Activities against the Recommendations of the (ANEC) 'Tackling Child Poverty' Task and Finish Group Report

Recommendation	Action(s) Taken / Being Taken in Hartlepool
<p>Recommendation 1: That Government instigates a whole scale review of the tax credit and benefits system with the aim of making the system simpler. This would encourage take-up of entitlements and more closely fit with the overall strategy for helping people off benefits and into work and in turn help to create a culture of work as the norm for the region's children. The review should build into the benefits system more incentives to take up work, e.g. around tapering of the reduction in benefit payments to ensure personal incomes rise with paid employment, moves towards a single form for accessing all benefits, with information shared across benefits 'providers'; and become more flexible to respond to families' changing circumstances, e.g. irregular earnings from jobs, so that a stable (but low) income from benefits is not seen as more attractive to families than working. We would welcome the opportunity to work with Government to identify a suitable North East location to pilot new approaches.</p>	<p>FISH has undertaken work to promote the take up of tax credits and Hartlepool has one of the higher rates of take up in the region (2004-05 13.46%, 14.97%, 2005-06, and 16.86% 2006-07). This is still a low rate of take up and reflects the concerns and difficulties families have about the system, therefore a review and simplification of the system would be welcomed. A review and simplification of the system would be welcomed.</p> <p>A group consisting of representation from the HBC benefits team and West View Advice and Resource Centre visited the Liverpool Benefits Service on 23 February. The benefits service in Liverpool (which is managed by Liverpool Direct Ltd) has developed a strategy for benefit maximisation and take-up. Rather than treating these activities as an additional or added value the benefits service is delivering an integrated service where benefit maximisation and take-up are embedded into service delivery. The result is that customers only have to provide financial information once to access their entitlement to all benefits and tax credits, vulnerable and under-claiming groups are being identified and targeted. The strategy includes seven key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Benefits Maximisation Service; - Maximising opportunities for customers to access benefits advice; - Maximising customer access to 'self service' benefit information; - Maximising customer access to assisted benefit information; - Integrating and joining up services to prevent duplication; - Making claims quicker and easier for customers; and - Utilising Benefit Service customer data to identify and target areas for benefit take-up. <p>Following the fact finding visit the group will meet shortly with John Morton to discuss their observations, review software options, case work management and the effectiveness of the city centre one stop shop in engaging clients and consider possible options for a similar approach in Hartlepool. This will</p>

	<p>include issues around potential cost, staff requirements, training, software etc.</p> <p>Hartlepool HBC is already piloting the inclusion of School meals costs/entitlement when calculating Housing Benefit entitlement.</p> <p>HBC Community Engagement Officer actively promotes the availability of Council Tax Special Reductions/ discounts for mentally impaired and disabled people and those with caring responsibilities.</p> <p>The Benefits and Revenues team work very closely to ensure outreach at other local events and partner initiatives are attended. Officers are available for home visits upon request which includes a benefits claims service.</p> <p>The HFIP Money Matters Road Shows focus on benefit maximisation information, advice and guidance to encourage potential benefit recipients to claim all available benefits in addition to signposting individuals to sources of free face to face money advice and access to affordable credit.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: That Children's Trust be asked to consider a regional approach to increasing the capacity of front-line staff (including voluntary and community sector staff and volunteers) to help increase benefit entitlement take up.</p>	<p>The development of a straightforward training programme for front line staff which could be delivered across the Children's Workforce would be welcomed and will be linked to the commissioning of welfare rights services.</p>

<p>Recommendation 3:</p> <p>(a) That councils, through LSPs, the Regional Welfare Rights Managers' Network and partners including Jobcentre Plus, instigate a range of practical take-up campaigns and initiatives including consideration of installing a free to use telephone in certain locations for potential claimants to access benefits, removing the barrier of the cost of phone calls to apply, and the availability of space for welfare rights staff to confidentially discuss benefits issues with potential claimants.</p> <p>(b) That the DWP be encouraged to implement the Government's Social Security Advisory Committee guidance to adopt the '03' telephone code for all enquiries for its benefits as a way of removing cost of calls as a barrier.</p>	<p>(a) No update available at this time.</p> <p>(b) Does not require local action.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4: That the Child Poverty Unit be asked to co-ordinate, across Government Departments, publicity campaigns around benefits (take – up and anti-fraud) to minimise stigma, under the 'Real Help Now' banner.</p>	<p>Query with the Child Poverty Unit. Awaiting response.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5: That the region's Institute for Local Governance and Centre for Translational Research in Public Health be asked to liaise to ensure that research is carried out into the health (and other) gains of increased welfare benefits take-up amongst children and families in poverty.</p>	<p>No update available at this time.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6: That the region's Children's Trusts examine the take-up of services through Children's Centres to see if they are delivering benefits to those most in need, and if not, seek to identify and overcome the barriers to achieving this policy objectives.</p>	<p>A data base has been established in Hartlepool's children's centres to monitor activity and take up of services. An outreach programme has been established to ensure services can be accessed by the most disadvantaged. Midwifery and Health Visiting provision to be delivered from Children's Centres.</p>

<p>Recommendation 7: That discussions are held with the new Tenant Services Authority aimed at stabilising the housing market, especially in the private rented sector, to minimise the impact upheaval of families through loss of accommodation has on the future prospects (loss of social networks, school friends, disruption to education etc) of the family and child. It is realised that the TSA will not take responsibility for the private rented sector immediately but early discussion on quality standards and joint working with other providers would be beneficial if property and management thresholds are to be improved.</p>	<p>Does not require local action.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8:</p> <p>(a) That, given the recent publication of the One North East research into affordable credit, local authorities, through the Association and the Financial Inclusion Champions, work in partnership with DWP on a co-ordinated response to the research recommendations.</p> <p>(b) That, in terms of the sustainability of existing credit unions, council staff and councillors be encouraged to join and make regular payments to their local credit union and that council's use their community leadership role, through LSPs to encourage other partner agencies to do likewise.</p> <p>(c) That the Association and Child Poverty Coalition jointly work on a campaign to lobby Government for changes to improve the regulation of lending including provision of access to low interest consolidation loans to reduce debt levels, tackle extortionately high rates of interest and loan sharking.</p>	<p>(a) Yes both myself via HFIP responsibilities and John are in regular contact with DWP Champions and other partners to provide a co-ordinated approach to issues. The relationships have been established for a number of years.</p> <p>(b) Credit Union membership has been promoted through staff wage slip messages and it is intended to explore the potential for direct deductions from payroll to encourage staff to join the credit union. Other employers in the locality will be approached to encourage their staff to join the credit union and promote the advantages of membership. There is potential for growth and a co-ordinated approach will be planned as will the opportunity to develop FIN mentoring to local HR professionals within businesses and the LA. It would of course be beneficial if the LSP would lend its support to any proposed initiative as this would ensure buy-in across all themed areas. Voluntary and Third Sector organisations already engage with the credit union but this will require further work if we are to reach all potential beneficiaries. This work would currently fit with that of the HFIP Development Officer.</p> <p>(c) The HFIP has established an excellent reputation for raising awareness of issues and lobbying for change in banking and other bad financial practices eg Loan Sharks, doorstep lenders, increasing access to affordable credit via DWP contracts with the credit union and working very closely with trading standards and the regional illegal money</p>

		<p>lending team. The HFIP is leading the way by piloting a loan shark sticker campaign which has the potential to roll out nationally. Through our partnership with West View Advice & Resource Centre and CAB we are well informed about legislative changes and issues around DR Orders etc. While this does not require local action the HFIP believes that it is important to lead, promote and engage with residents and their representatives to ensure that all available information and guidance is readily available to them to ensure that the can avoid predatory lenders and where possible increase personal financial capability.</p>
<p>Recommendation 9: That One North East and local authorities clearly set out and communicate the economic case for promoting credit unions, in recognition of the large sums of money being drained from local economies to fund expensive (and sometimes illegal) loans- a practice referred to as 'welfare benefit leakage'.</p>	<p>Yes the LSP and the Economic Forum – HFIP has membership on this group – has been made very aware of the correlation between Child Poverty/FIN and economic growth. HFIP have made several presentations to both groups about the underpinning issues related to the leaky bucket syndrome and lost money to the local economy due to poor financial practices and poor resident financial capability, home budgeting and reliance on welfare benefits. In addition HFIP & CU have presented conferences for residents and local decision makers to raise awareness of the personal/economical consequence of over-indebtedness, welfare benefit reliance, child poverty and financial exclusion. The Local Authority is very supportive of the CU in terms of financial support and promotion.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 10:</p> <p>(a) That a basket of indicators covering the causes and effects of child poverty be used voluntarily by local authorities and partners in their reviews of their sustainable community strategy and LAA, as part of their approach to CAA and in response to forthcoming child poverty legislation.</p> <p>(b) That all 12 authorities be encouraged to include in their Corporate Self Assessment, their progress and challenges for eradicating child poverty as it relates to their Sustainable community Strategy and Local Area Agreement targets.</p>	<p>(a) A child poverty score card is being developed to start a process of outcomes based accountability to engage partners in addressing issues of child poverty and so to make an impact on levels of poverty. This will incorporate a range of indicators that are felt to be most pertinent to the local situation.</p> <p>(b) A child poverty strategy and action plan has been drafted for Hartlepool and a report will be going to Cabinet to establish governance processes and ensure a strong link to the LSP.</p>	

<p>Recommendation 11: That a NE Child Poverty Pledge be developed based on key actions identified through the Task & Finish Group and that regional child poverty-related voluntary and community sector agencies be centrally involved in this work. Barnardo's in the North East has agreed to take a lead role in this work by co-ordinating input from other voluntary and community sector agencies in this regard. It is further recommended that the Child Poverty Coalition be asked to monitor progress towards meeting pledge actions.</p>	<p>Hartlepool already has a local pledge with sign up from major stakeholders.</p>
<p>Recommendation 12: That the Child Poverty Coalition be asked to consider parental skills within the context of tackling child poverty.</p>	<p>Hartlepool has a parenting strategy and pledge. A range of parenting courses/support is in place. This has been designed to provide a continuum from universal to specialist to reduce the stigma that might be associated with attending a targeted/specialist programme.</p>
<p>Recommendation 13: That PCT's World Class Commissioning framework in the region is developed to ensure commissioning in all localities targets outcomes around child health and health inequalities, thus ensuring services are further targeted to areas and communities in greatest need.</p>	<p>It is through the Tees PCT's World Class Commissioning Strategy that targets and plans agreed. Actions already in place through this strategy include targets for teenage pregnancy, breastfeeding, childhood obesity, increased immunisation and vaccinations, smoking in pregnancy, smoking across the whole population.</p> <p>The Healthy Child draft service specifications which will support the commissioning of community services during 2010/11 clearly state the requirement of providers to contribute to the child poverty agenda and health improvement outcomes.</p>
<p>Recommendation 14: That the Early Life Regional Advisory Group to the Better Health, Fairer Health Strategy continues to priorities effective approaches to increasing the take-up of breast-feeding.</p>	<p>A breast-feeding strategy has been developed and a breast-feeding co-ordinator has been appointed. There is vigorous activity in place linking Health and Children's Centre resources to address the issue of low rates of breast-feeding in Hartlepool.</p>

Recommendations 15:

<p>(a) That the extended hours initiative for health services be further developed, especially for FP and dental services, to ensure they are timely and responsive to local circumstances, e.g., local labour market patterns in one locality which may require a different pattern of access to services in other localities.</p> <p>(b) That, given the high priority given to tackling smoking and excess alcohol consumption through the region's LAAs, the Fresh and Balance regional offices should continue to produce targeted campaigns with a particular focus on reducing tobacco and alcohol use amongst young people, especially smoking during pregnancy.</p> <p>(c) That action to implement "Aiming High for Disabled Children" is taken by PCT's and local authorities to support breaks and respite for parents and carers of disabled children, but also to support parents/carers' routes back into training and employment for more sustainable routes out of child and family poverty.</p>	<p>(a) Query raised by Joan with Ali Wilson regarding the feasibility and affordability of further developing extended hours in primary care. We already have full sign up from our GPs for extended hours which matches the funding we have available. We have also invested in a walk in health centre offering services from 8-8pm so I am not sure that we could direct any further resource at this at this time. As far as dental provision is concerned – again we are fully meeting our NHS requirements although we are working with dentists to ensure that care is of the highest quality and that more people have access to NHS dental care. (We already have very limited private provision in the town.) May be worth noting that we have invested significantly in 'community dental services' which provide more specialist care to people (mostly children and young people) through the provision of fantastic new premises within One Life Hartlepool on Park Road..</p> <p>(b) Smoking cessation in pregnancy is addressed via Health and Children's Centre initiatives. Hartlepool has the second best performing smoking cessation services in the country and therefore these services will continue to target smokers to offer support, this included an incentive scheme to support women to stop smoking in pregnancy.</p> <p>Whilst Hartlepool has a red flag in its CAA for alcohol, further work is being targeted on developing the alcohol harm reduction strategy.</p> <p>Operation stay safe has been implemented to identify young people at risk on Friday nights. Additional youth activities on Friday and Saturday nights have been commissioned via the youth service with significant input from young people.</p> <p>(c) A local implementation plan has been agreed with the region (TDC) and is being implemented.</p> <p>Aiming High in Hartlepool is being developed with a clear objective of building in sustainability so that universal services can meet the needs of all children.</p>
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<p>(d) That the provision of ante- and post-natal care and initiatives is reviewed by PCT's to examine if the supply of skills in this area of care to link with strategies for raising aspirations and employment and training opportunities, especially for people in low income households.</p> <p>(e) That each PCT sets out specific priorities, actions and targets in relation to local health inequalities in Children and Young People's Plans and that progress towards clearer strategic action in the new plans from 2011 is clearly mapped out.</p>	<p>(d) A workforce development strategy is being developed across the Tees PCTs.</p> <p>(e) A Teeswide PCT child health strategy has been developed, it links to the priorities of the CYPs and JSNA.</p>
<p>Recommendation 16: That the HCA and local government continue to share their experience and expertise around local labour or social clauses to maximise the impact capital investment in housing can have on up-skilling local people and tackling worklessness.</p>	<p>Following the Children's Trust Development Day, Public Health priorities will be key within the Children and Young People's Plan as they currently are by 2011.</p> <p>In relation to local initiatives, Hartlepool has always been good at investing in fuel poverty initiatives. In addition to this, presentations on the issue to the Children's Trust Board and Cabinet have resulted in the identification of additional investment.</p>
<p>Recommendation 17:</p> <p>(a) That the HCA continues to work closely with local authorities and housing partners, as part of its approach to the development of its 10-15 year investment strategies and three year plans that help to alleviate aspects of child poverty, e.g., around decent and zero carbon homes, thus ensuring that strategic decisions are taken with child and family poverty in mind.</p> <p>(b) That as a follow up to the current decent homes standard, councils should encourage a follow up to the programme that considers future investment in the existing housing stock (i.e. more than 90% of the current housing stock in the UK) to make them more 'liveable' and cheaper to run.</p>	<p>No update available at this time.</p>

CABINET REPORT

7 June 2010



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO 'CHILD
POVERTY AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN
HARTLEPOOL' – ACTION PLAN

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To agree an Action Plan in response to the findings and subsequent recommendations of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee's investigation into 'Child Poverty and Financial Inclusion in Hartlepool'.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

- 2.1 The report provides brief background information into the 'Child Poverty and Financial Inclusion in Hartlepool'. Scrutiny Investigation and provides a proposed Action Plan (**Appendix A**) in response to the Scrutiny Committee'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 Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, attached as **Appendix A** is the proposed Action Plan for the implementation of these recommendations which has been prepared in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services.

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 Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee at the earlier possible opportunity 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**) in response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee's investigation into 'Child Poverty and Financial Inclusion in Hartlepool'.

Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

**Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO 'CHILD
POVERTY AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION 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 Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee's investigation into 'Child Poverty and Financial Inclusion in Hartlepool'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 To assist the Cabinet in its determination of either approving or rejecting the proposed recommendations of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee's investigation into 'Child Poverty and Financial Inclusion 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 Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, who holds the lead for child poverty.
- 2.2 The overall aim of the investigation was to gain an understanding of the key issues/factors that lead to child poverty and evaluate the Council's and its key partners' activities to reduce/eradicate it.

3. ACTION PLAN

- 3.1 As a result of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee's investigation into 'Child Poverty and Financial Inclusion in Hartlepool', the following recommendations have been made:
- a) That a 'mapping' exercise of services be undertaken to ensure that all organisations are aware of the services available;
 - b) That given Association of North East Councils (ANEC)'s role as the lobbying and advisory body in relation to this issue, the Council should utilise the skills and knowledge it has to assist in linking into the work of other authorities to share best practice;
 - c) That ways of working with utility providers, benefits agencies and other bodies be explored to facilitate the transmission of information to the

Council where families are in need of assistance and at risk of falling in to poverty;

- d) That the capacity of the Council to become involved in schemes for the provision of things such as household items, both new and second hand, at a reasonable cost to residents should be explored as a means of helping prevent vulnerable families and individuals from being drawn into high cost finance deals;
 - e) That updates be presented to Scrutiny on progress in tackling child poverty at regular intervals;
 - f) That in ensuring that the impact of child / family poverty is reflected in all aspects of the Council's decisions and work:
 - reference to 'child poverty' be included as a standard item on all Council reports; and
 - a review of the Commissioning of Services should be undertaken to ensure that 'child poverty' is considered as a separate clause within any contract.
 - g) That the recommendations of the ANEC Child Poverty Task and Finish Group be supported and taken forward wherever possible.
- 3.2 An Action-Plan in response to these recommendations has now been produced in consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder and is attached at **Appendix A** which is to be submitted to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee at the earlier possible opportunity in the new municipal year (subject to availability of the 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 Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee's investigation into 'Child Poverty and Financial Inclusion in Hartlepool'.

NAME OF FORUM: Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Child Poverty and Financial Inclusion in Hartlepool

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: April 2010

	RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
a)	That a 'mapping' exercise of services be undertaken to ensure that all organisations are aware of the services available;	A task and finish group will be established to complete the mapping exercise:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group established June 2010 • Interim proposal – Nov 2010 • Mapping completed Jan 2011 • Information circulated to all partner agencies Mar 2011 	Officer time Cost of circulating information – minimise via electronic communication	John Morton	March 2011
b)	That given ANEC's role as the lobbying and advisory body in relation to this issue, the Council should utilise the skills and knowledge it has to assist in linking into the work of other authorities to share best practice;	Regular attendance by lead officer at North East Local Authority Child Poverty Policy Network and Government Office led workshops, which are supported by ANEC's Policy Manager and the North East Child Poverty Adviser from Government Office, will provide structured mechanism for sharing of best practice	Officer time Travel expenses	Sue Johnson	Network meetings for 2010/11 scheduled for April, June, August, October, December, February. GONE workshop May 2010
c)	That ways of working with utility providers, benefits agencies and other bodies be explored to facilitate the	Existing Hartlepool Financial Inclusion Partnership Stakeholder Group which meets monthly and involves a broad range of agencies	Officer time	Carol Jones	HFIP Meeting programme 2010/11. Progress position

NAME OF FORUM: Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Child Poverty and Financial Inclusion in Hartlepool

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: April 2010

	RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
	transmission of information to the Council where families are in need of assistance and at risk of falling in to poverty;	will be used to drive this initiative. Will need to integrate with Child Poverty Working Group work programme.			statement report December 2010.
d)	That the capacity of the Council to become involved in schemes for the provision of things such as household items, both new and second hand, at a reasonable cost to residents should be explored as a means of helping prevent vulnerable families and individuals from being drawn into high cost finance deals;	Develop working arrangements with the voluntary sector to reuse furniture and other items from the Council's Household Waste Recycling centre and the Bulky Waste Collection service.	Officer time	Denise Ogden	December 2010
e)	That updates be presented to Scrutiny on progress in tackling child poverty at regular intervals;	Update reports on progress to be prepared for Scrutiny on a 6 monthly basis	None	Sue Johnson	November 2010
f)	That in ensuring that the impact of child / family poverty is reflected in all aspects of the Council's	Report writing guide for officers will be amended to include child/family poverty as an issue to consider on all reports. This will be put in place	None	Amanda Whitaker	June 2010

NAME OF FORUM: Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Child Poverty and Financial Inclusion in Hartlepool

DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: April 2010

	RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
	decisions and work: - reference to 'child poverty' be included as a standard item on all Council reports; and - a review of the Commissioning of Services should be undertaken to ensure that 'child poverty' is considered as a separate clause within any contract.	for the commencement of the new municipal year. Reference to Child Poverty to be included in the Council's Sustainable Procurement policy and guidance given to staff on the use of clauses in contract documents wherever appropriate.	None	David Hart	October 2010
g)	That the recommendations of the ANEC Child Poverty Task and Finish Group be supported and taken forward wherever possible.	Progress against the actions as outlined in appendix B of the report will be updated on a 6 monthly basis as part of the reporting arrangements for e)	None	Sue Johnson	November 2010