

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO DECISION SCHEDULE



Friday, 19 November 2010

at 10.00 am

in Committee Room C, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond responsible for Community Safety and Housing will consider the following items.

1. KEY DECISIONS

No items

2. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

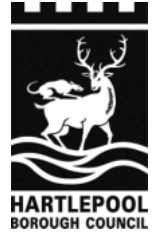
- 2.1 Church Street Conservation Area Management Plan – *Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)*
- 2.2 Homelessness Strategy 2010-2015 – *Assistant Director (Community Safety and Protection)*
- 2.3 Safer Hartlepool Partnership Community Cohesion Fund Proposals – *Assistant Director (Community Safety and Protection)*
- 2.4 Stranton Conservation Area Appraisal - *Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)*
- 2.5 Neighbourhood Action Plans – Performance Update 2009/10 – *Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)*

3. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 3.1 Progress Report – Ground Work North East – *Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)*

**COMMUNITY SAFETY AND HOUSING
PORTFOLIO**

Report to Portfolio Holder
19th November 2010



Report of: Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)

Subject: CHURCH STREET CONSERVATION AREA
MANAGEMENT PLAN

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide information to the Portfolio Holder on the draft Management Plan that has recently been produced for the Church Street Conservation Area and request permission to take the draft document out to public consultation.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report outlines the background to management plans and briefly summarises the topics covered. It is proposed that the document is taken out to public consultation prior to being finalised.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

Conservation falls within this Portfolio.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non – key decision.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Portfolio Holder on 19th November 2010.

6. DECISION REQUIRED

That the Portfolio Holder notes the report and agrees to the public consultation for the Church Street Conservation Area Management Plan.

Report of: Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)

Subject: CHURCH STREET CONSERVATION AREA
MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information to the Portfolio Holder on the draft Management Plan that has recently been produced for the Church Street Conservation Area and request permission to take the draft document out to public consultation.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 English Heritage in their advice to local authorities' in their publication "Guidance on the Management of Conservation Areas" (February 2006) indicates that an appraisal of a conservation area needs a set of policies, strategies and actions identified to actively manage change in a conservation area. Change in a conservation area is inevitable and the purpose of a management plan is to direct this change in such a way that it strengthens rather than undermines the conservation areas special quality.
- 2.2 Existing national legislation and policy advice in the form of the "Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990" and "Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment" with its supporting Practice Guide from English Heritage provide guidance on how to manage development in conservation areas. Many of these national policies are translated locally to Hartlepool via the Local Development Framework (previously the Hartlepool Local Plan) which provides specific policies to manage listed buildings and conservation areas. However every conservation area has development issues more or less specific to that Area which a Conservation Area Appraisal like that undertaken in Church Street is intended to identify.

3. SUMMARY OF CHURCH STREET MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 3.1 The Visual Appraisal for Church Street indicated that progress had been made in improving the functioning and appearance of Church Street. However the Appraisal identified some very particular problems affecting the quality of Church Street Conservation Area which needed specific responses to manage the area. These have been highlighted in the Management Plan which proposes to address each issue. The areas to be addressed are:

- vacant and under used buildings.
 - building maintenance (which included the colours used for decoration).
 - the installation of roller shutters to shop fronts and business advertising.
 - maintenance of the street environment.
- 3.2 Further information on each of these issues is provided below along with a brief outline of the suggested measures that are considered to address these problems in the management plan.
- 3.3 **Vacant and Under Used Buildings** – The report has identified that there has been a reduction in the number of vacant buildings in Church Street in the last twelve months. However a substantial number still remain vacant with further buildings expected to become vacant. The availability of a grant budget has assisted in reducing the number of vacant buildings. Powers are available in national planning legislation to address the vacant listed buildings and non-listed buildings in conservation areas and should be considered where appropriate. In addition the buildings have been placed on the Council’s list of key vacant buildings and sites. They continue to be monitored and opportunities for future uses will be investigated.
- 3.4 **Building Maintenance** – One issue that can affect the appearance and quality of the conservation area is the lack of building maintenance. Owners have indicated that they could not afford to undertake maintenance due to trading conditions. The grant available was relatively small at a maximum of £3,000 per building, yet has had a dramatic impact on the appearance of Church Street from the decoration carried out and the palette of conservation colours used to give an overall coherent end result. Investigations into potential sources of grant budget to continue to support businesses in Church Street will be considered along with the provision of advice to owners on maintenance.
- 3.5 **Shop front shutters and advertising** – The report has identified the installation of roller shutters and the type and quality of business advertising from properties as affecting the quality and appearance of Church Street as a conservation area. Some design advice has been prepared previously in the form of a “Shop Front Design Guide“ leaflet produced by the Council in conjunction with the New Deal for the Communities which gives advice on issues like roller shutters, palette of paint colours for shop fronts and signage. The plan suggests that this leaflet could be re-launched to owners in Church Street and amended to emphasis some of the issues like shop front signs and advertisements.

3.6 **Adverts** – The report has identified the adverse visual impact arising from the adoption of inappropriate signage usually consisting of an internally illuminated box sign to the shop fascia. An approach to adverts based on hand painted fascia signs through the recent grant scheme have demonstrated that the type, design and detail of advertisements to buildings and shop fronts can have a positive impact on the appearance of the conservation area. This sentiment is outlined in the management plan along with the proposal that guidance is provided on signage in conjunction with any information produced on shopfronts.

3.7 **Maintenance of Street Environment** – If building owners or new owners are to be encouraged to invest in empty buildings, decorate their buildings and be more careful in their proposals for advertisement and painting of shop fronts then the maintenance of the street furniture needs to be addressed on a regular basis and the street scene not allowed to deteriorate. The street furniture has been decorated and now provides an adequate appearance. However like building owners maintaining their own properties further maintenance needs to be undertaken on a regular basis. The area around Church Square is being considered as part of the Town Centre Strategy which includes issues of the design of street furniture and their amount and positioning to avoid the appearance of visual clutter.

4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

4.1 It is proposed that all properties within the area and interested parties, such as local amenity societies, would receive a letter inviting comments and a leaflet summarising the management plan. In addition the document will be available to download from the Council's website.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

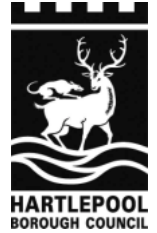
5.1 That the Portfolio Holder notes the report and agrees to the public consultation for the Church Street Conservation Area Management Plan.

6. CONTACT OFFICER

Sarah Scarr
Landscape Planning and Conservation Manager
Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department
Bryan Hanson House
Hanson Square
Hartlepool
TS24 7BT
Tel – 01429 523275
e-mail sarah.scarr@hartlepool.gov.uk

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder
19th November 2010



Report of: Assistant Director (Community Safety & Protection)

Subject: HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2010-2015

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek authorisation for publication of the Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan for 2010 – 2015 following final amendments as recommended by Cabinet at their meeting on 28th June 2010.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

At the meeting on 28th June 2010, Cabinet approved the Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan for 2010 – 2015 and agreed that any final amendments were to be authorised by the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Housing, if necessary, prior to its publication.

Discussion at Cabinet focused on how the Strategy helped support the Council's aim of tackling child poverty and some minor amendments have been made to clarify these links. The final Strategy and Action Plan are attached to the report as **Appendices 1 and 2**

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER

The Homelessness Strategy has strategic relevance across a range of Portfolios, including Community Safety and Housing, Neighbourhoods and Regeneration.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non key

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Community Safety and Housing Portfolio meeting 19th November 2010

6. DECISION REQUIRED

The Portfolio Holder authorises publication of the Strategy and Action Plan.

Report of: Assistant Director (Community Safety & Protection)

Subject: HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2010-2015

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek authorisation for publication of the Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan for 2010 – 2015 following final amendments as recommended by Cabinet at their meeting on 28th June 2010.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the meeting on 28th June 2010 Cabinet approved the Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan for 2010 – 2015 and agreed that any final amendments were to be authorised by the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Housing, if necessary, prior to its publication.

3. UPDATED INFORMATION

- 3.1 Discussion at Cabinet focused on how the Strategy helped support the Council's aim of tackling child poverty and further information has been provided within the table titled 'Links to local strategies and initiatives' to clarify these links.
- 3.2 The Action Plan has also been produced as a separate document and the key strategic links for each aim and objective of the Strategy have been clearly identified.

The final Strategy and Action Plan are attached to the report as **Appendices 1 and 2.**

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Portfolio Holder is asked to authorise publication of the final Strategy and Action Plan

CONTACT OFFICER

Lynda Igoe,
Principal Housing Advice Officer,
Housing Options Centre,
Park Tower, Park Road, Hartlepool, TS24 7PT.
Telephone 01429 284177,
E-mail: lynda.igoe@hartlepool.gov.uk

2010-15

2.2 Appendix 1

Homelessness Strategy

Hartlepool Borough Council



Homelessness Strategy 2010-15 (Draft)

Contents

	Foreword	
Chapter 1	Introduction	1
	Development of the Strategy	1
	Vision	2
	Strategic Aims and Objectives	2
	About Hartlepool	2 - 3
Chapter 2	Statistical information for Hartlepool	3
	The National, Regional and Sub-Regional Context	4
	Key National Themes	5
	Regional and Sub Regional Context	6
	The local policy context and strategic links	6-7
	Performance Indicators	8
Chapter 3	Achievements since the Homelessness Strategy 2003-8	9
	Updated review of homelessness in Hartlepool	10
	Current levels of homelessness in Hartlepool	10 - 13
	Provision of supported accommodation	14
	Challenges	15 - 20

Foreword

I am delighted to introduce Hartlepool's Homelessness Strategy for 2010-15. This strategy builds upon our successes in tackling homelessness over the last seven years and sets out our vision and direction for tackling homelessness over the coming years. Our first Homelessness Strategy published in 2003 and the 2006-09 update has given us a firm foundation to work from; the strong working relationships developed and initiatives introduced as a result of the strategy have led to considerable achievements in tackling homelessness within Hartlepool. These achievements include:

- Meeting the government's target to halve the use of temporary accommodation
- Reducing the level of homelessness acceptances from a total of 268 in 2002/3 to 18 in 2008/9
- Responding successfully to the requirement that no family with dependent children should stay in bed and breakfast accommodation, except in an emergency and then for no more than 6 weeks, achieved by March 2004 and have continued to comply since that date
- Awarded Regional Champion in homelessness status 2005/06
- Effective joint working, for example the development of the joint working protocol between Housing, the Youth Offending Team and the Young Person's Team of Children's Services
- Establishing the multi agency Supported Housing Panel, ensuring a systemic assessment of support needs and monitoring of move-on into independent accommodation to ensure optimum use of support services.

With this strategy we will build upon these achievements, placing an emphasis on multi-agency working, customer care and high quality service delivery. I am particularly pleased to see how the links between this and other complementary strategies will help us deliver improvements towards tackling child poverty within the town.

We will face new challenges over the next five years but we are determined that the range of measures set out in the strategy and the ongoing support from our partners will enable us to continue to prevent homelessness across the borough.

Mayor Stuart Drummond

Introduction

The Homelessness Act 2002 required all local authorities to develop a strategy, every five years, to reduce homelessness based on a thorough review of the homelessness situation in the area. Our first Homelessness Strategy, published in 2003 and subsequent update in 2006, presented a shift in focus towards preventing homelessness and ensuring advice and support to assist people access and sustain suitable housing was available to all.

Since the first strategy was produced the approach to preventing homelessness has developed significantly, partly in response to targets set by Central Government, but also as result of improved understanding regarding the causes of homelessness. This Strategy has been produced in consultation with service users, stakeholders and local agencies and builds upon our successes in tackling homelessness over the last seven years and sets out our vision and direction for tackling homelessness over the coming years.

Development of the Strategy

This Strategy has been developed by a steering group of key agencies from both the public and voluntary sectors and has been informed by;

- Review of the first Homelessness Strategy and the 2006-9 update
- Review of the current levels of homelessness and service provision in Hartlepool
- Review of National, Regional and Local policy drivers and established best practice
- Consultation with staff, service providers, stakeholders and service users
- Scrutiny investigation into youth homelessness completed in 2009

Performance Monitoring of the Strategy

The actions discussed throughout the strategy have been compiled into a detailed action plan and has been produced as a separate document. The plan details the timescales, lead responsibilities, key partners and milestones. Wherever possible we have included SMART actions in the action plan, and these can be readily measured, however some targets are broader or less certain, and these will be refined through an annual review of the strategy and action plan.

The Homelessness Strategy Steering Group will monitor the delivery of the strategy and review the action against its targets to ensure it continues to respond effectively to local needs and national policy. The action plan will also be

linked into all other relevant strategic and service plans and will therefore also be monitored through the councils' corporate management systems.

Progress on the action plan will also be reported on an annual basis to the Housing Partnership.

Vision

“Our long term vision is to end homelessness within Hartlepool and to ensure all residents have access to a safe, secure and suitable home”

Strategic Aims and Objectives

In order to drive this Strategy forward four strategic aims have been agreed each supported by a series of objectives. These have been developed into a detailed action plan identifying the actions to be taken by the Council and our partners in order to achieve these.

Strategic Aim	Strategic Objective
Prevent homelessness in Hartlepool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce youth homelessness in Hartlepool • To improve access to advice and information • Encourage housing providers and other stakeholders to prioritise homelessness prevention • Continued development of initiatives to prevent repossessions
Improve access into appropriate accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve access and sustainment of suitable accommodation • Encourage provision of direct access supported accommodation for young people • Increase the supply of affordable housing and maximise the use of existing resources
Maximise appropriate support Promote social and financial inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve access and availability of appropriate support • Maximise the use of floating support provision • Develop the Enhanced Housing Options service • Assist homeless people find employment, education and training

About Hartlepool

Hartlepool is located on the North East coast of England within the Tees Valley sub region. It is a compact town, which is linked to the rest of the region and country by road, rail and sea. Approximately 90,000 people live in Hartlepool, 1.2% of the overall population are from black and minority ethnic communities and almost a fifth of the population are at or above retirement age. The town combines dense urban areas, an established marina and expanding suburbs with a number of distinct rural villages. It is a proud town steeped in history and maritime heritage and the people of the Borough have a strong sense of local identity.

Hartlepool is a unitary local authority covering the town with a directly elected mayor and cabinet political structure. Other major service providers sharing the local authority boundary are the Hartlepool Primary Care Trust, the Police Basic Command Unit and the Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters. The Learning and Skills Council, Jobcentre Plus and the Probation Service have established locality teams. There is a strong tradition of partnership working in the Borough, more recently through the work of the Hartlepool Partnership, which brings together the public, private, community and voluntary sectors.

Statistical information for Hartlepool

According to the 2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), seven out of Hartlepool's seventeen wards are among the top 10% most deprived in England, with five of these wards being in the top 3%.

Unemployment in April 2008 stood at 4.5% compared to 2.2% nationally.

The 2001 census indicated that 60.1% of households (22,684) had a car, 8.7% (3,234) were single parent families and 21.4% (7,986) were households with dependent children.

According to the 2001 census approximately 63% of the population are owner-occupiers, 27% rent from social landlords and 7% rent privately.

Hartlepool's Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2007 estimated that over the period 2007 to 2029, the overall population of Hartlepool is expected to increase from 90,600 to 93,900, an increase of 3.6%. Over this period, the number of residents in the over 60 age group will continue to increase.

Household types in Hartlepool demonstrate that around 22.9% of households are headed by someone of pensionable age, 33.5% are singles or couples with no children, 8.3% are single parent households, 17.1% are couples with children and 18.2% are other types of household (e.g. students, friends sharing). Household projections indicate that the proportion of singles and other household types is likely to increase.

Across Hartlepool, there are an estimated 39,271 occupied dwellings, 1,963 vacant properties and 293 second homes, with a total dwelling stock of 41,527. The overall vacancy rate of 4.7% is higher than the 3% rate recommended by Communities and Local Government CLG.

Close to a quarter (23.8%) of Hartlepool's residents identified themselves as having a limiting long-term illness in the 2001 census, compared to less than one in five nationally (17.6%).

Teenage pregnancy rates in Hartlepool are high (66.8 per 1000 females aged 15-17 in 2007) in comparison with the national average (40.6 per 1000) and regional comparators. This is despite achieving the 2004 interim target of a 15.2% reduction on the 1998 baseline.

The National, Regional and Sub Regional Context

The Homelessness Strategy is influenced and informed by a wide range of priorities at both national and regional level.

National Context

Local Housing Authorities have a statutory duty to provide assistance to all households who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, regardless of whether there is a duty to accommodate. In 2005 the Government published its national strategy for tackling homelessness, 'Sustainable Communities – Settled Homes, Changing Lives', taking forward the plan to 'create thriving, sustainable, vibrant communities'. The Strategy sets out the Government's approach to tackling and reducing homelessness and drives forward the following key objectives:

- reduce homelessness
- prevention of homelessness and repeat homelessness
- reduce rough-sleeping by two thirds
- halve the number of homeless households residing in temporary accommodation by 2010
- reduce the numbers of homeless households with children in temporary accommodation overall by over 30,000 (compared with current levels) by 2016
- no use of bed & breakfast accommodation for families unless in an emergency and then only for up to six weeks
- no use of bed & breakfast accommodation for 16/17 year olds by 2010 unless in an emergency
- provide more settled homes

These objectives link into a number of government strategies including the Supporting People National Strategy 'Independence and Opportunity' published in 2007. The Strategy supports the role of partnership working and homelessness prevention through housing-related support services for vulnerable and excluded people. The Supporting People Programme interfaces with the homelessness prevention agenda, with an aim to reduce repeat homelessness and ensure efficient use of resources by undertaking reviews of service provision and delivery.

In 2006 The Housing Corporation published its strategy, 'Tackling Homelessness', to allow Registered Providers (RPs – formerly known as Registered Social Landlords) to take ownership of and contribute to the homelessness prevention agenda. Since 1 December 2008, the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) is the new regulator of RPs. The TSA and Communities and Local Government (CLG) support a team of Special Advisers in the Homelessness Action Team. In 2009 they produced a Homelessness Toolkit that aims to build on the homelessness strategy, reflecting the changing environment and national policy developments to help RPs, ALMOs and local authority landlords to progress their approaches to homelessness, overcrowding and worklessness.

Key National Themes

- Halving the number of people in temporary accommodation through the provision of a wider range of prevention methods and increased access to settled homes
- A specific focus on tackling youth homelessness and ending the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for homeless 16 and 17 year olds
- An increased emphasis on the role of RP's in contributing to homelessness strategies and assisting Local Authorities to meet their obligation to homeless households and to prevent homelessness.
- Supporting vulnerable people to attain and sustain independent living through the Supporting People Programme
- The delivery of increased numbers of affordable housing (3 million new homes by 2020 and 45,000 new social homes a year by 2011) with a focus on sustainable design & provision of increased numbers of family homes
- Improvements to existing homes and maintaining the decent home standard
- Conversion of temporary accommodation into settled homes
- Addressing overcrowding
- Developing 'enhanced housing options services' linked with employment education and training opportunities to provide those in housing need with a wide range of options and empowering them to make informed decisions
- Encouraging joined up working between Housing & Children's Services to tackle the negative outcomes amongst 4 particular "at risk" groups of young people
- Focus on a new local performance framework delivered through LAAs and with an emphasis on cross cutting themes and partnership working
- Social Exclusion Task Force work on supporting vulnerable homeless people - including young and single homeless and PSA 16 groups (care leavers, offenders, adults with learning disabilities and adults in contact with secondary mental health services) - to access settled homes and establish and sustain independent lives

Regional and Sub Regional Context

The Regional Housing Strategy reinforces the national themes of the provision of social and other affordable housing, the creation of sustainable communities, meeting the decent homes standard in the social sector and for vulnerable tenants in the private rented sector, addressing various levels of housing need and contributing to the future development of the region.

Hartlepool works closely with its Tees Valley partners to develop specific initiatives to address homeless prevention and the Tees Valley has a good track record of sub regional working. Homelessness is not constrained by Local Authority boundaries, and there are many common features across the Tees Valley.

Sub Regional Choice Based Lettings (CBL) was introduced during 2009 to provide more choice and flexibility for people wishing to access social housing and ensure that the lettings process meets the needs of a wide range of clients and provides a transparent service.

The local policy context and strategic links

Homelessness is not just a housing problem; it can disrupt other parts of a person's life, including their health, education, training, work and relationship with the wider community. If not addressed swiftly it can turn what should be temporary crisis into a life damaging event. In Hartlepool there are already a wide range of local strategies and plans that contribute directly or indirectly to preventing homelessness and addressing the needs of those who are homeless. This strategy aims to build on this work and link to it.



Table 1: Links to local strategies and initiatives

Strategy	Date	Key Strategic Links
Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy	2008-20	Sets out a long term vision for the town and explains how we will improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the community, these aims are embedded throughout the Homelessness Strategy.
Hartlepool's Local Area Agreement (LAA)	2008-11	Includes targets in relation to the following housing areas :- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balancing Housing Supply and Demand • Improving the Quality of Existing Housing • Changing Housing Needs and Meeting the Housing Needs of Vulnerable People • Access to Housing
Housing Strategy	2006-11	Sets out the key housing issues facing Hartlepool and actions to tackle them which includes homelessness.
Crime, Disorder & Substance Misuse Strategy	2008-11	Access into settled accommodation helps offenders and people with substance misuse problems to effectively address their behaviour and greatly increases their chances of ending their criminal activity or managing their addictions.
Supporting People 5 Year Strategy	2006-11	Enabling access into supported housing and facilitating move on helps to increase numbers of clients gaining independence, reducing the risk of homelessness.
Domestic Violence Strategy	2007-10	Ensuring timely access to suitable accommodation and support for victims of domestic violence.
Children and Young People's Plan	2009-20	Youth homelessness is recognized as a significant issue in the town, the Homelessness Strategy supports this by helping to provide access to timely support for young people. Recognizes importance of early intervention and mediation to support young people and their families.
Empty Homes Strategy	2010-15	Provides an effective framework for bringing private sector empty homes back into use in Hartlepool which will improve availability of suitable housing and supports sustainable communities.
Housing Market Renewal/Regeneration	ongoing	HMR is a key priority for the Council and helps to achieve sustainable communities; the Homeless Strategy contributes

		to this by improving access into sustainable housing.
Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Hartlepool Working Solutions	2001-10	Ensuring timely access to suitable accommodation and support for teenage parents Aims to help local residents back into work through a variety of initiatives. Assistance with employment and training opportunities will help tackle one of the main underlying causes of homelessness and housing need, the Homelessness Strategy supports initiatives to improve access to these services.
Child Poverty and Financial Inclusion Strategy	2010-20	Homelessness can have a devastating impact on the family and limit life chances of children. Preventing home-loss through eviction helps provide stability and improves employment prospects. Access to affordable housing provides more disposable income for families to help promote financial well-being.

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Performance Indicators

One of the drivers for this strategy is the need to meet national and local targets. The following are the national indicators (NI); the best value performance indicators (BVPI) and Local Area Agreement indicators (LAA) that have helped shape the strategy.

Target	Description
NI141	Number of vulnerable people achieving independent living
NI142	Number of vulnerable people who are supported to maintain independent living
NI155	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)
NI156	Number of households living in temporary accommodation
RPD P008 (ex BV 202)	Number of people sleeping rough
RPD P003 (ex BV 183(i))	Average length of stay (weeks) in bed and breakfast accommodation of households which include dependent children or a pregnant woman which are unintentionally homeless and in priority need
RPD P011 (ex BV 213)	Homelessness prevented through housing advice casework / 1,000 households
RPD P0012 (ex	The proportion of households (per 1000) accepted as statutorily homeless who were accepted as homeless by the authority within the last two years

BV 214)	
LAA H7	The percentage of new tenants receiving support from HBC sustaining their tenancies for 6 months
LAA H8	The percentage of RSL tenants evicted without personal contact from their landlord
LAA H10	Number of failed tenancies
LAA H5	Number of adaptations carried out to enable vulnerable people to remain living independently in their own home

Achievements since the Homelessness Strategy 2003 and 2006 update

Our first Homelessness Strategy published in 2003 and the 2006-09 update has given us a firm foundation to work from in developing this new strategy. The emphasis on homeless prevention, the strong working relationships developed and the initiatives introduced as a result of the strategy have led to considerable achievements in tackling homelessness within Hartlepool. The following table provides a summary of the main achievements that have contributed to improving access to accommodation and made a significant impact on tackling homelessness within Hartlepool;

Meeting the government's target to halve the use of temporary accommodation by 2010 from levels in 2004
Reducing the level of homelessness acceptances from a total of 268 in 2002/3 to 18 in 2008/9
Responding successfully to the requirement that no family with dependent children should stay in bed and breakfast accommodation, except in an emergency and then for no more than 6 weeks, by March 2004 and have continued to comply since that date
Development of joint working protocol between Housing, the Youth Offending Team and the Young Person's Team of Children's Services to improve service provision for young people.
Establishing the multi agency Supported Housing Panel, ensuring a systemic assessment of support needs and monitoring of move-on into independent accommodation to ensure optimum use of support services.
The development of the Eviction Protocol with Housing Hartlepool to target enhanced advice and assistance to those vulnerable to homelessness and reduce tenancy failure.
Prior to the introduction of the Mortgage Rescue Scheme Housing Hartlepool successfully completed 19 'buy backs' from former Right to Buy tenants vulnerable to homelessness between 2006 to 2009.
Development of the sub regional Common Allocations Policy and implementation of the Compass Choice based Lettings scheme in 2009.
Development of a 'crash pad' facility giving emergency temporary accommodation at Gainford House, young persons' supported housing project provided by Stonham Housing Association.
Development of a supported housing scheme for 6 people with issues around alcohol dependency at Richard's House provided by Carr-Gomm.

Updated Homelessness Review

As our previous Homelessness Strategy was fully informed by a comprehensive review of homelessness, and service provision affecting homelessness, it has not been necessary to start from scratch in developing this new Strategy. However we do need to be confident we have a full and up to date picture of homelessness within Hartlepool and the Steering Group have updated our homelessness review during 2009 to date.

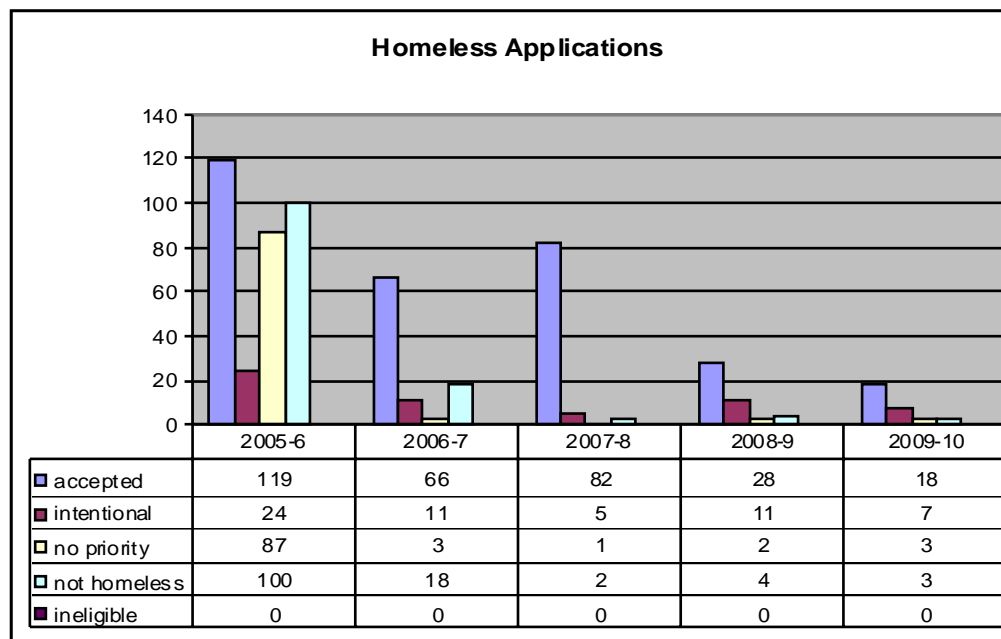
Key elements in this process has been collation and review of all relevant data, listening to service users and to other agencies, assessing current service provision, identifying forthcoming challenges and developing the action plan with SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time based) outcomes.

The Housing Advice and Supporting People teams also jointly commissioned an independent review into youth homelessness which was carried out by Mark Stephenson of Sounding Board Research and Consultancy.

Current levels of homelessness in Hartlepool

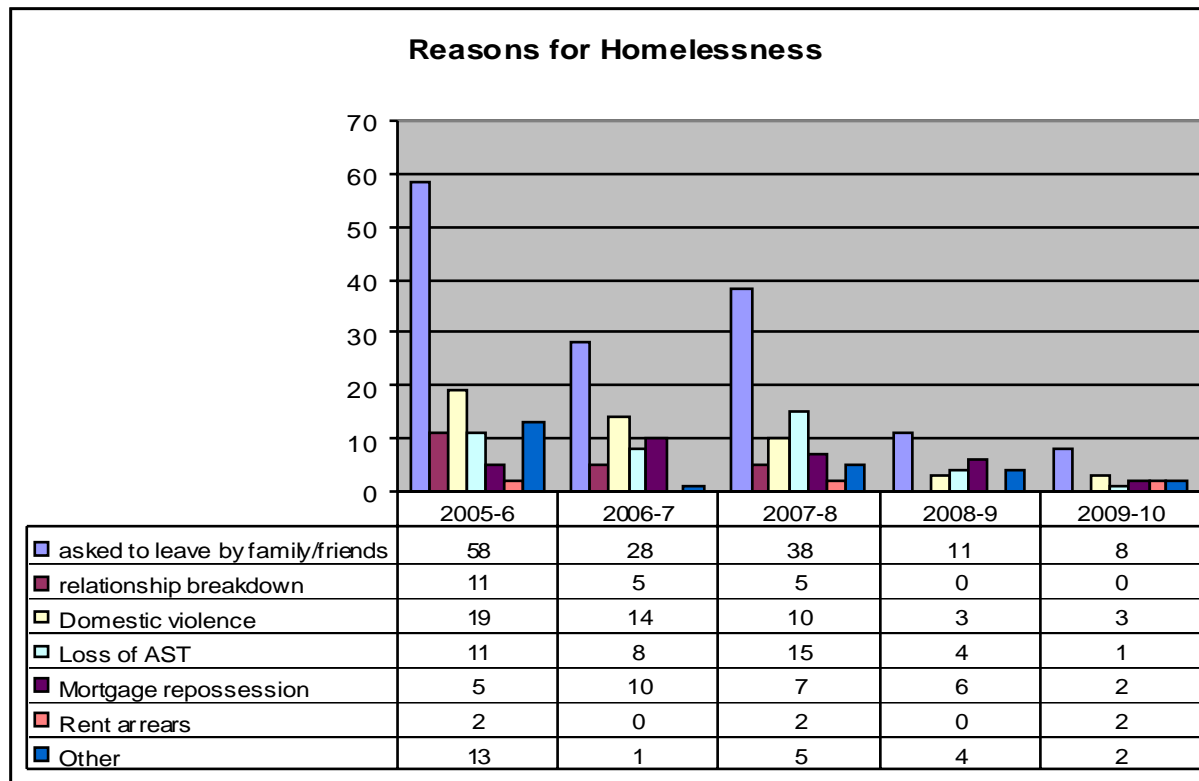
Since the development of our first Homelessness Strategy we have seen a dramatic and consistent reduction in the levels of homelessness within the town. By responding to the causes of homelessness and focusing our resources on homelessness prevention we have been able to resolve many potentially homeless situations before they occur.

Additionally the enhanced partnership working and inter-agency liaison, championed by the Homelessness Strategy Steering Group, continues to improve and achieve positive outcomes.



The number of households having to be accepted as 'Priority Homeless' has been significantly reduced year on year and this trend is continuing.

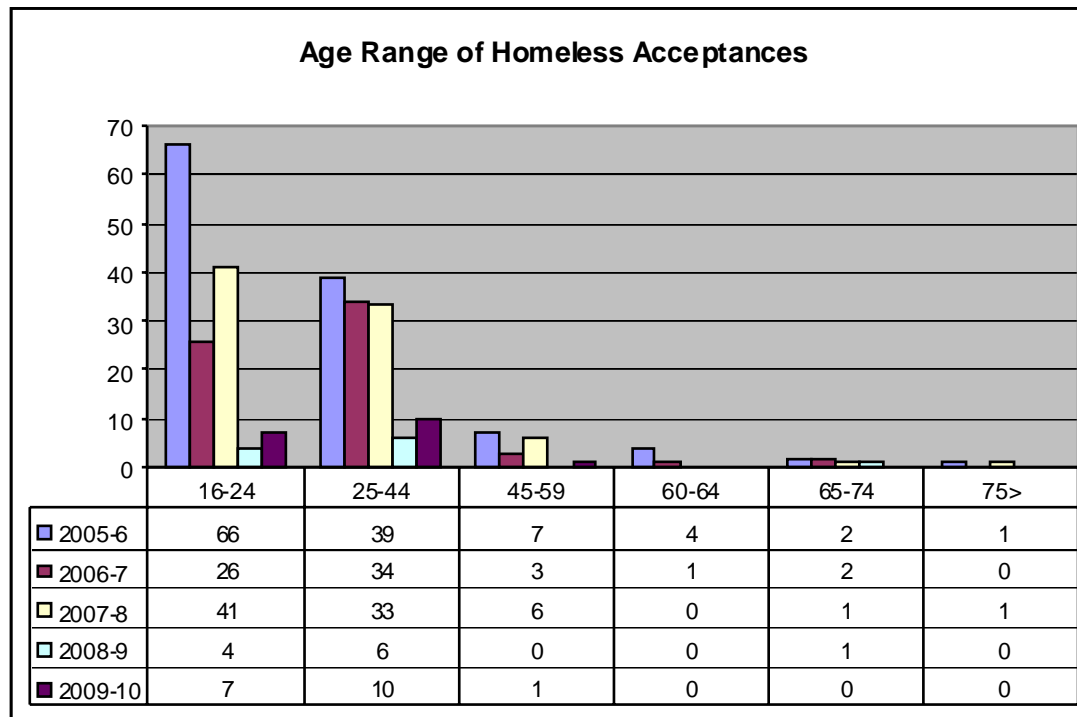
Traditionally the main causes of homelessness in Hartlepool have reflected the national picture being 'asked to leave by family/friends', 'relationship breakdown' and 'loss of an Assured Short-hold Tenancy' (private sector tenancy). Through timely and effective housing advice we have seen major improvements to the overall reduction of homelessness against all the main causes.



The need for a dedicated Tenancy Relations Officer was identified within our first Homelessness Strategy and this appointment has proved successful in helping to reduce homelessness against one of the traditionally highest causes in Hartlepool that of losing a private sector tenancy. By targeted advice and assistance to both landlords and

their tenants around their rights and responsibilities and promoting good practice within the sector, we have seen significant reduction in the numbers of homeless acceptances due to the loss of a private sector tenancy.

The main reason for homelessness continues to be from being asked to leave by family or friends, these applicants are mainly in the under 25 age groups and have the greatest difficulty in accessing their own suitable independent accommodation. Continued emphasis on homeless prevention is vital for this age group and consultation with stakeholders and service users has confirmed the need for greater access to mediation and support for families and to assist young people to prepare for independent living in a planned and sustainable way.

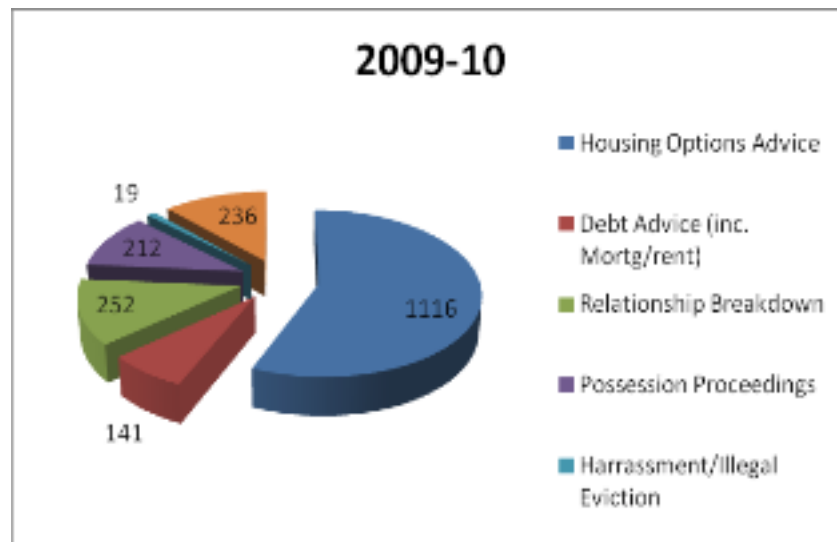


Although homelessness acceptances have decreased overall, the proportion of young people accepted as homeless has remained the largest percentage of all acceptances. The majority of young people presenting as homeless are homeless due to friends or family evictions.

Homelessness amongst older people is not shown to be an issue in Hartlepool.

During 2009-10 the Housing Advice Team provided casework for 1976 clients offering a range of advice and assistance to help people resolve their housing problems.

The following chart identifies the main presenting problems from these cases.



Amongst these cases 354 clients presented with issues that without intervention would have led to them becoming homeless. Through effective casework the Housing Advice Team were successful in preventing homelessness for these clients enabling them to save their existing home or assisting them to access alternative secure accommodation.

These figures do not include those customers receiving one off general advice either in person or by telephone.

The Housing Advice and Homelessness service relocated to the Housing Options Centre which opened in September 2009. During the months of September and October the numbers approaching for advice fell but this has returned to previous levels in November and is continuing to increase.

From January 2010 the CAB are providing a surgery two days a week to increase the availability for advice relating to debt and preventing repossessions. The Leaving Care Team from Children's Services also provides advice and assistance to 16 and 17 year olds on a surgery basis from the Housing Options Centre. Other partners offering services from the Housing Options Centre include Job Smart and Sure Start. Further work is needed to encourage other service providers to make use of the Centre to maximize its potential and improve access to advice and assistance for all.

Provision of Supported Accommodation

The Supported Housing Panel has been developed to ensure we are making best use of the available supported housing provision within the town and to assist with appropriate and timely 'move on' when people are ready to successfully sustain an independent tenancy. The Panel is made up of a multi-agency partnership lead by the Supported Housing Coordinator based in the Housing Advice Team.

There are currently 73 units of supported accommodation within the following schemes;

- 10 at Gainford House, plus emergency crash pad (for 16 to 25 year olds)
- 5 at St Paul's (for 16 to 18 year olds)
- 6 at Anna Court for Teenage Parents (for 16 to 25 year olds with priority given to 16 to 19 year olds)
- 8 at Eamont Terrace (for people with Mental Health Needs)
- 11 at Scott Grange (for offenders)
- 11 at Avondene (for single homeless people)
- 20 from Endeavour HA (for single homeless people)
- 7 at the Womens Refuge
- 6 at Grange Road (for people with alcohol issues)

268 clients are currently receiving Floating Support to help successfully manage and sustain their tenancies across the town via various providers with Supporting People contracts.

Although there is increasing need and demand for these services pressure on the Supporting People budget could see these numbers reduce.

Challenges

Increasing provision of supported accommodation and floating support services

Although there has been an increase in the numbers of supported accommodations since the Homelessness Strategy was published there is still insufficient available to meet the demand. In particular there is an urgent need for supported tenancies for young people, especially those aged 16 to 17 who often need support to gain the necessary skills needed to sustain a successful tenancy and prevent them from becoming homeless again.

Tackling youth homelessness

Levels of homeless acceptances in Hartlepool are significantly higher amongst younger people and consultation with both service users and stakeholders has identified youth homelessness as a key issue for Hartlepool.

Local housing authorities and Children's Services have a legal duty to work jointly to assess the needs of homeless 16 and 17 year olds and multi agency joint working is essential to meet the needs of all young people facing homelessness.

- | The House of Lords ruled in *G v London Borough of Southwark* that local authorities should presume that any lone, homeless child should be provided with accommodation and under section 20 of the Children Act 1989, unless the child is not in the local authority's judgment a child "in need" and that such circumstances would be extremely rare.
- | This ruling clarifies that the primary responsibility for under 18s is clearly with Children's Services and we need to review our protocols to ensure we comply with the legislation and also to monitor all cases of homelessness, even if dealt with exclusively by Children's Services and no formal homeless application is made.

Current interventions and initiatives to prevent youth homelessness will be improved and developed to achieve positive outcomes for young people and help achieve the strategic objectives locally.

Preventing homelessness during the recession

With the contraction of the UK economy in 2008, economic output has fallen steadily and this has had a significant impact on employment, demands on public services and public finances. Whilst there is some emerging evidence that the economic decline is slowing, it has been recognised that the adverse social impact of the recession will continue for a significant period.

The effect of repossessions will not just be seen in mortgage cases for owner occupiers and private landlords. There is also a risk of an increase in the number of people losing their home in the social sector and private rented sector due to evictions for rent arrears caused by debt and loss of income due to unemployment or reduced household income. There may also be an increase in family breakdown cases where tensions increase at home due to financial pressures leading to an increase in homelessness due to relationship breakdown. It is therefore vital that we work to

prevent homelessness across all tenures. A range of measures has been introduced to help those who are at risk of repossession.

Mortgage Rescue - The mortgage rescue scheme was announced in September 2008 and implemented in January 2009. The package offers two options for vulnerable households in mortgage difficulty. To be eligible for these schemes a household must include someone with priority needs as defined in the Housing Act 1996. There are additional criteria to ensure that other options have been considered and that mortgage rescue is the best and most sustainable solution for the household. The 2009 budget extended the scheme to households in negative equity.

Shared Equity – for those who have an income and own significant equity in their homes. A housing association will offer an equity loan of between 25% and 75% of the household's current mortgage to reduce mortgage payments.

Mortgage to Rent – for the most vulnerable households who are no longer able to sustain a mortgage. A housing association will buy the property with the occupiers remaining in their home but as tenants on assured shorthold tenancies for three year fixed terms.

Homeowners Mortgage Support aimed at homeowners who are experiencing a temporary loss of income. It means that homeowners will be able to make smaller mortgage payments for up to two years without risk of losing their home.

Pre Eviction Protocol - The Civil Justice Council has introduced a protocol for the County Courts to help make sure that reasonable steps are taken to avoid court proceedings in mortgage and rent arrears cases. The protocol requires that the causes of the arrears are fully explored, proposals for repayments are considered and that appropriate advice is given. Lenders may be requested by the courts to explain the actions they have taken to comply with the protocol.

Preventing Repossessions Fund - During 2009 the Government announced they were making this 'one off' fund available to enable local authorities provide additional assistance to help to help homeowners struggling with their mortgage costs, or tenants in the social or private rented sectors in difficulty with their rental payments. Hartlepool received £28,000 which will be used to provide interest free loans to qualifying households in order to prevent homelessness.

These initiatives are aimed at keeping people in their homes and avoiding the social and financial costs that arise from repossessions

Responding to Housing Benefit and Local Housing Allowance concerns

In 2008 Local Housing Allowance (LHA) replaced Housing Benefit for the tenants of private landlords. Payments are made direct to tenants to give them the buying power to rent a home of their choice. There is some concern that this could lead to homelessness amongst more vulnerable tenants if they fail to pass on the LHA to their landlord. There are provisions for direct payments to be made direct to landlords where tenants are vulnerable and risk homelessness and/or they have accrued eight weeks of rent arrears.

There has been an increase in take up of housing and council tax benefit, with 38% of all households being in receipt of benefit. There has also been a marked increase in the number of unsuccessful claims, although these claimants have not qualified for benefit at this stage it is clear that more people are struggling to meet their financial commitments, which could lead to more repossessions in the future.

We will develop a formal protocol with the Housing Benefit Team to assist in the identification of vulnerable applicants and ensure they are offered any necessary debt advice and supported in applying for direct payments and discretionary housing payments.

Working with the private rented sector

The majority of private rented accommodation is let on an Assured Shorthold Tenancy basis (usually for 6 months) and offers far less security of tenure than social housing tenancies. The standard of accommodation and management within the private sector can vary widely and there is a far higher turnover of tenants than within the social sector.

We will continue to develop effective working relationships with private sector landlords and their agents to improve management standards and tenancy sustainability.

Uncovering Hidden homelessness

People who do not access services for assistance with housing but are 'sofa surfing' and so not have their own accommodation can be classed as the 'hidden homeless'. Consultation with stakeholders has identified that hidden homelessness has been recognised as an issue in Hartlepool. Households that do not present to local agencies for assistance with the housing issues are not recorded. It is therefore very difficult to capture the true picture of homelessness locally and nationally. This presents a challenge for agencies to identify the true need locally.

In 2009 the Supporting People and Housing Advice Service jointly commissioned Centrepoint to provide an enhanced monitoring project for all homeless and potentially homeless people accessing range of services in Hartlepool. A multi-agency monitoring form was introduced for all agencies to complete with their clients to capture a range of information about their clients' circumstances relating to their housing and support needs to be returned to Centrepoint on a monthly basis. From their analysis of this information Centrepoint will provide a suite of monitoring information relating to homeless and emerging trends.

Reducing Overcrowding

In December 2007 the Government confirmed significant progress has been made to prevent homelessness and reduce temporary accommodation use and that local authorities should also focus on addressing overcrowding issues alongside homelessness to help improve homes for all.

We will work in partnership with RP's operating in Hartlepool to develop initiatives to encourage and assist tenants under occupying accommodation to move into smaller units of accommodation. This could free up the larger units of social housing stock for families in overcrowded accommodation.

Reducing Re-Offending

Home Office figures suggest that having stable accommodation can reduce reconviction rates by over 20%. Short-sentenced offenders are not subject to statutory support and supervision from the National Probation Service on release, and often experience barriers to accessing suitable accommodation and support upon release. We will continue to work with partner agencies to develop initiatives to assist this client group into stable accommodation.

Tackling Homelessness and health

Poor housing and homelessness commonly affects physical and mental health. In addition poor health can affect an individual's ability to access and maintain accommodation. Some of the risks to health related to poor housing and homelessness include:

- An increased risk of mental illness including drug/alcohol problems
- Respiratory disease including tuberculosis
- Poor health in pregnancy and birth e.g. low birth rate
- Increased infant mortality
- Restricted child development
- Reduced likelihood of accessing health promotion/primary care.

We will work in partnership with local agencies to develop initiatives to improve the health and well being of all those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. We will also develop a Hospital Discharge Policy to ensure that any potential homelessness issues for patients are identified and a prompt assessment of their housing requirements is made.

Tackling Homelessness and educational achievement

Studies have shown that poor housing and homelessness links to poor education. Risks to education associated with poor housing and homelessness include:

- Difficulty in children producing homework
- Difficulty in concentrating and poor listening skills

Housing charity Shelter believes there are 1.6 million children, around 13 per cent of today's youngsters, living in overcrowded, temporary, dilapidated, damp or dangerous homes in the UK. Shelter also estimates that a quarter of children living in such conditions gain no GCSEs, compared with a tenth of those housed well.

A safe, secure and suitable home means more students achieving better grades. Shelter's research reveals that only around half of poorly housed children gain five GCSEs, compared with 71 per cent of other children. In addition, badly housed 11 to 15 year-olds are twice as likely as others to have been excluded from school.

We will work in partnership with clients and agencies to collect information on the impact of poor housing, homelessness and temporary accommodation on the educational achievement of clients presenting as homeless in Hartlepool.

Tackling Substance misuse

People with substance misuse problems often have housing problems and can find it difficult to access and maintain suitable accommodation, additionally poor housing and homelessness can have a major impact on a person's ability to address their substance misuse problems.

We will work in partnership with local agencies and housing providers to ensure advice and support is available for people with substance misuse problems to enable them to access and sustain suitable accommodation.

Tackling Economic and social inclusion

Recent publications from central government acknowledge that housing and economic and social inclusion are intrinsically linked, meaning that future policies should look at developing targeted interventions for both. The CLG has issued guidance "Expanding Choice, Addressing Need" that encourages local authorities to consider an enhanced housing options approach, which is aimed at tackling the underlying causes of homelessness and housing need. It is considered that Housing Options Services should not only assist households in finding the housing of their choice, but should also be able to help them improve their chances of being able to retain that home.

Lack of employment, low educational attainment and lack of a stake in the community are only some of the complex causes behind housing need. As no one challenge can be addressed in isolation, it is important that the implications of remaining out of work are discussed with clients and they are actively encouraged into education, employment and training. It is a challenging time to consider such an initiative. For many more vulnerable customers securing a job is likely to be increasingly difficult as they compete in the job market with those who have recently lost their jobs. However, to make sure that our customers can take advantage of employment and training opportunities, the possibility of providing employment and training advice, or linking to other training and employment advice services, will be explored as part of our enhanced housing options approach.

Responding to the needs of older persons

The housing, care and support needs of older people are high on the Government's agenda in response to the challenge of a growing older population. There has been a shift in focus away from targeting services and resources primarily on the most vulnerable older people in acute and residential settings, to an enabling approach to a wider

range of older people to live independently in the community. Housing and support services have a key role to play in achieving this.

The Government strategy 'Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods: Housing in an Ageing Society' published in February 2008 projects that ageing is the major driver in new household growth, accounting for 48% of new households by 2026, and that current housing and neighbourhoods are not designed with ageing in mind.

Hartlepool has an aging population and we need to ensure appropriate services are available and accessible to the elderly to prevent any increase in future levels of homelessness amongst this priority group. The Older Persons Housing and Care Strategy will assist in addressing the housing and support needs of an ageing population.

Improving Partnership working with Registered Providers

The Housing Corporation launched "Tackling Homelessness", its strategy on homelessness, in November 2006 and this has since been adopted by the Tenants Services Authority. The strategy is based on six themes:

- developing better partnership working with local government;
- working towards sustainable, cohesive and balanced communities where people want to live;
- preventing homelessness by promoting coherent and seamless housing allocation and management and support for tenants;
- encouraging RP's to make better use of existing stock;
- working with Regional Housing Boards to direct investment towards improving access to housing where there is housing need;
- promoting good practice to support associations and other landlords in raising performance standards.

The Housing Corporation's strategy identified that RP's should develop and adopt a homelessness action plan to progress their approach to preventing and tackling homelessness. The strategy also identified that a Homelessness Champion should be identified at a senior level in the RP to promote delivery of the action plan.

We will work with all RP's in Hartlepool to develop these themes locally.

Preventing Rough Sleeping

The Department of Communities and Local Government has issued a policy document "No One Left Out – Communities Ending Rough Sleeping" in 2008 aimed at ending rough sleeping in all areas. Official counts of rough sleeping in Hartlepool have continued to provide nil returns however, it is important that we make sure that our services support the objective of preventing rough sleeping through effective housing options.

2010-15

Homelessness Strategy Action Plan

Draft Homelessness Strategy 2010-15 Action Plan

1. Strategic Aim: Prevent homelessness in Hartlepool					
Strategic Objectives			Strategic Links		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce youth homelessness in Hartlepool • To improve access to advice and information • Encourage housing providers and other stakeholders to prioritise homelessness prevention • Continued development of initiatives to prevent repossessions 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy • LAA • Housing Strategy • Crime, Disorder and Substance Misuse Strategy • Supporting People 5 year Strategy • Domestic Violence Strategy • Children and Young People's Plan • Empty Homes Strategy • Housing Market Renewal/Regeneration • Teenage Pregnancy Strategy • Hartlepool Working Solutions • Child Poverty and Financial Inclusion Strategy 		
Action	Outcome	Responsibility	Resources	Timescale	Target
1.1 Expand monitoring of tenancy failure to all social housing providers	Reduction in tenancy failure across all social housing providers	Lynda Igoe HBC	Existing	March 2011	Establish a baseline for 10/11 and set a measureable target for 11/12
1.2 Expand eviction protocol to include all social housing providers	Reduction in repossession actions taken	Lynda Igoe HBC	Existing	March 2011	100% of RPs operating Hartlepool to be signed up
1.3 Review and develop software needs for the Housing Options	Improved monitoring and reporting facilities to identify trends and	Lynda Igoe HBC	To be identified	September 2011	To have a new system in place – the achievement of this target will be

Service	outcomes for homeless people and to increase capacity for casework				dependent on cost
1.4 Update the range of service leaflets available from the Housing Options Centre	Improved access to advice and information	Siobhan Rafferty HBC	Existing	January 2011	Leaflets will be available and published on the web
1.5 Develop initiatives to promote and encourage parental responsibility for 16 and 17 year olds	Reduction in youth homelessness due to family/friend evictions	Through Care Team Manager (SS)	To be identified	March 2012	To be agreed by the new service manager
1.6 Identify and monitor use of temporary accommodation by Childrens Services	To capture all data on homelessness	Virginia Dobson - Through Care Team (SS)	Existing	December 2010	100% use of temporary accommodation to be recorded

2. Strategic Aim: Improve access into appropriate accommodation					
Strategic Objectives			Strategic Links		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve access and sustainment of suitable accommodation Encourage provision of direct access supported accommodation for young people Increase the supply of affordable housing and maximise the use of existing resources 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy LAA Housing Strategy Crime, Disorder and Substance Misuse Strategy Supporting People 5 year Strategy Domestic Violence Strategy Children and Young People's Plan Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Child Poverty and Financial Inclusion Strategy 		
Action	Outcome	Responsibility	Resources	Timescale	Target
2.1 Review operation of Supported Housing Panel to evaluate and improve appropriate and timely move on into settled accommodation	Improved move on to settled accommodation	Siobhan Rafferty/Peter Morgan HBC	Existing	March 2011	An updated Terms of Reference
2.1a Improve appropriate and timely move on into settled accommodation.	Greater opportunity for vulnerable clients to move on and become independent in the community. This	Peter Morgan/Siobhan Rafferty HBC	Existing	Ongoing to 2015	2010/11 planned move on target is 75%.

	would help reduce incidents of homelessness, including repeat homelessness.				
2.2 Work with private landlords and agencies to improve quality and availability of accommodation for substance misusers	Improved access into suitable accommodation	Chris Hart HBC	Existing	March 2011	Establish a baseline for 10/11 and set a measureable target for 11/12
2.3 Implement changes to Common Allocations Policy approved from review	To assist with homelessness prevention and improved access into suitable accommodation	Lynda Igoe	Existing	September 2011	The new policy will be in operation
2.4 Develop a protocol with all housing and support providers to improve access into suitable accommodation for vulnerable people	Improved access and sustainment of suitable accommodation	Lynda Igoe/Peter Morgan/Siobhan Rafferty	Existing	March 2011	A protocol in place
2.5 Work with providers to develop incentives to encourage people under occupying social	To make more efficient use of available stock	Lynda Igoe	RP resources	September 2011	100% of RPs will have an initiative in place

housing to transfer into smaller accommodation					
2.6 Continue to encourage accredited private landlords to advertise their vacancies through the Compass CBL scheme	To improve access and choice of suitable accommodation	Lesley Huitson Landlord Accreditation Officer HBC	Existing	March 2012	Establish a baseline for 10/11 and set a measureable target for 11/12 for increased lets as a result of advertising through CBL
2.7 Continue to develop effective working relationships with private sector landlords and their agents to improve management standards and tenancy sustainability.	To improve management standards and sustainability of private sector tenancies	Alistair Simpson Tenancy Relations Officer HBC	Existing	March 2012	Establish a baseline for 10/11 and set a measureable target for 11/12 relating to tenancy failure in the private rented sector

3. Strategic Aim Maximise appropriate support					
Strategic Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve access and availability of appropriate support Maximise the use of floating support provision 			Strategic Links <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy LAA Housing Strategy Supporting People 5 year Strategy Domestic Violence Strategy Children and Young People's Plan Teenage Pregnancy Strategy 		
Action	Outcome	Responsibility	Resources	Timescale	Target
3.1 Maximise appropriate referrals for floating support provision	Reduced tenancy failures due to inappropriate referrals	Siobhan Rafferty HBC	Existing	March 2011	100% of referrals to be made with appropriate and timely information
3.2 Remodel floating support	Increase provision of floating support	John Brunetti Stonham	Existing	September 2010	28 floating support

service from Gainford House	placements from 8 to 28				placements
3.3 Develop and implement a Hospital Discharge Policy	Improved access to support to enable people to return home and prevent homelessness	Dale Owens	Existing	Provisionally March 2012	A policy in place
3.4 Develop and promote referral procedures for mentoring service provided by NACRO for 17 to 25 year olds	20 young people to be in receipt of mentoring support	NACRO Bridging Gaps Project	Existing	March 2011	20 people in receipt of mentoring support
3.5 Implement Supported Lodgings scheme	6 hosts providing 6 young people with accommodation	Peter Morgan	Supporting People/Connexions/Youth Offending/Childrens	November 2010	6 hosts providing 6 young people with accommodation

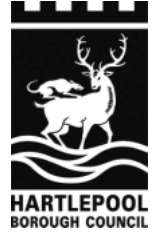
4. Strategic Aim Promote social and financial inclusion					
Strategic Objectives			Strategic Links		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the Enhanced Housing Options service Assist homeless people find employment, education and training 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy LAA Housing Strategy Supporting People 5 year Strategy Hartlepool Working Solutions Child Poverty and Financial Inclusion Strategy 		
Action	Outcome	Responsibility	Resources	Timescale	Quarter 2 10/11 Update
4.1 Develop a protocol with Housing Benefits to assist in the identification of vulnerable applicants and ensure they are offered any necessary debt advice and supported in applying for direct payments and discretionary housing payments.	Reduction in rent arrears and possession actions taken.	Lynda Igoe and Julie Pullman/ Siobhan Rafferty HBC	Existing	March 2011	A protocol in place
4.2 Continue to develop links with employment and training agencies and provide	Increased numbers accessing training and employment opportunities	Lynda Igoe HBC	Existing	December 2010	Services delivered via Housing Options Centre

access to their services from the Housing Options Centre					
4.3 Encourage other service providers to make use of the Housing Options Centre	Maximise the potential of the Housing Options Centre and improved access to advice and assistance	Lynda Igoe HBC	Existing	March 2011	Full capacity within the Housing Options Centre

COMMUNITY SAFETY & HOUSING PORTFOLIO

Report To Portfolio Holder

19th November 2010



Report of: Assistant Director (Community Safety & Protection)

Subject: SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP
COMMUNITY COHESION FUND PROPOSALS

SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the recommendations of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership (SHP) Community Cohesion Grants Panel in respect of applications for community cohesion funding.

2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

Proposed awards for community cohesion grants are as follows:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
ADDvance	£2,000
Headland Future	£1,368
Manor West Youth Project	£680
Hartlepool Deaf Centre	£1,153
Hartlepool Chinese Association	£2,100
Total	<u>£7,301</u>

3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

Portfolio holder has responsibility for community safety, which includes community cohesion grants.

4.0 TYPE OF DECISION

Non key.

5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Community Safety & Housing Portfolio on 19th November 2010.

6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED

The Portfolio Holder is to consider the recommendations of the SHP Community Cohesion Grants Panel in respect of the applications for funding to support community cohesion related projects totalling £7,301.

Report of: Assistant Director (Community Safety & Protection)

Subject: SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP
COMMUNITY COHESION FUND PROPOSALS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the recommendations of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership (SHP) Community Cohesion Grants Panel in respect of applications for community cohesion funding.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Community cohesion, as defined by the Department for Communities and Local Government is: "What must happen in all communities to enable different groups of people to get on well together. A key contributor to community cohesion is integration, which is what must happen to enable new residents and existing residents to adjust to one another."
- 2.2 One of the annual priorities for the Safer Hartlepool Partnership under its strategic assessment process is that of public reassurance and community engagement. The lead for delivery of activity under this priority rests with the SHP Reassurance & Community Engagement themed group. This group has the remit to oversee initiatives, which fulfils the criteria for community cohesion funding, a key element of which is positive engagement and integration within communities across Hartlepool. A Community Cohesion grants panel has been formed, which comprises of members from that themed group, with fund administration undertaken by Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency.
- 2.3 A copy of the application form, which contains examples of cohesion and criteria by which applications will be considered is attached at **Appendix 1**. The maximum grant for organisations in one year has been agreed to be £5,000.
- 2.4 The SHP allocated £15,000 from 2008/09 and £15,000 from 2009/10 to be spent on projects which contributed to community cohesion. In 2010/11 £15,000 has also been allocated.

- 2.5 The Safer Hartlepool Partnership Community Cohesion Grants Panel has met, considered applications submitted, and recommended the applications outlined at Paragraph 3 for approval.

3. PROPOSALS

3.1 ADDvance

The group exists to support entire families whose lives are impacted by Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and associated behaviours. The group also raises awareness and endeavours to educate the public in relation to these conditions.

Funding is sought for a pilot project which aims to bring together a grandparents' group in order to pass on skills to young people on the group's farm, thereby influencing attitudes and behaviour and helping all concerned to understand each other's point of view.

The project will foster cohesion through inter-generational activities and will target hard to reach individuals. The organisation has identified this as a pilot project and activities will include gardening and cooking referred to as 'Seed to Table'.

Total cost of project	£4,450
Grant Panel recommendation	£2,000

This proposal has unanimous support from the Grants Panel.

3.2 Headland Future

The organisation was set up in 2000 to promote the benefit of children and young persons living in North East England through delivering three main projects: Youth work, Parenting and Families, and Employment/Education/Training.

The funding requested is for structured diversionary activities for young people from West view, Headland and Central Estate for 16 weeks. The sessions will provide a safe environment for young people aged 11-19 years on Friday evenings between 6.45 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. The organisation ran 19 sessions of the 'Friday Night Project' last year and was supported by the Police and Community Cashback funding. A total of 30 young people accessed the service (from the geographical areas listed above and also Dyke House) with an average attendance of 15 per session.

Total cost of project	£2,507
Grant Panel recommendation	£1,368

This proposal has unanimous support from the Grants Panel.

3.3 Manor West Youth Project

This is a well established group providing social, educational and leisure opportunities for young people primarily, as well as working in partnership with both statutory and voluntary organisations for the benefit of all the residents in the community.

Funding is sought for a Fun Day event which will consist of partnership working with Cleveland Fire Brigade and West View Project. The event will be open to all young people aged up to 19 but will be aimed at those between 5 and 12 years. The young people of the community have expressed an interest in having a Fun Day purely for people of their age. Activities at the event will consist of 'It's a Knockout', Five-a-side football (against the Fire Brigade), climbing tower, speed ball cage, penalty shout out, bouncy castles, DJ/disco and face painting.

The application states that the project contributes to the community cohesion principles through allowing people from different backgrounds to have similar opportunities and encourage meaningful interactions between different backgrounds. Also it aims to generate and create opportunities to work constructively with a broad range of agencies allowing people from different backgrounds to come together and experience new opportunities collectively.

Total cost of project	£680
Grant Panel recommendation	£680

This proposal does not have the unanimous support of the Grants Panel.

3.4 Hartlepool Deaf Centre

The group was formed in 1982 to promote the welfare of the deaf community, in particular the mutual recreational and social life of deaf and hearing impaired people. The centre Focus on Health project aims to empower the deaf community to improve their own health by offering accessible health information and health promoting activities and events with British Sign Language interpreter support.

The proposed classes will bring together people from different generations and cultures with various physical, psychological and sensory disabilities to participate in a fun activity and learn from each other, whilst improving their fitness and reducing their stress levels. It is expected that 10 people will participate in the activity and will contribute £1 per session.

Total cost of project	£1,473
Grant Panel recommendation	£1,153

This proposal has the unanimous support of the Grants Panel.

3.5 Hartlepool Chinese Association

This group formed in May 2010 and their aim is to integrate the Chinese community with the wider population and to improve the health of both communities. The need for this group has arisen because many of the members have suffered verbal and racial abuse and feel that introducing Chinese culture and customs to the wider community will help to reduce this abuse.

The group has identified that Chinese language classes will assist them, along with other activities, to integrate into the wider community and 'have a better chance of local people accepting Chinese residents on equal terms'. The activities will be open to all of the community and translation fees are also included in the application to aid in reducing barriers to community cohesion.

Total cost of project	£18,949
Grant Panel recommendation	£2,100

This proposal does not have the unanimous support of the Grants Panel.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Community Cohesion grant budget totals £15000 in 2010/2011. The Portfolio Holder has previously approved applications for £7,685 Applications within this report amount to a total of £7,301. If applications are approved this would leave a balance of £14.

5. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 The Portfolio Holder is asked to consider the SHP Community Cohesion Grants Panel recommendations in respect of applications for funding for community cohesion related projects totalling £7,301

Contact Officer:

Brian Neale
Community Safety Manager
Tel: 01429 405584.
E.mail : brian.neale@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Individual grant applications.

Name of Group:.....

Name of Activity/Project:.....

Please be specific and confine your answers to the spaces provided.

Do not use continuation sheets

1 Describe the activity that you wish to do

2 What evidence do you have that people in your community want/need this activity?

3 When do you expect the activity paid for by the Fund to

BEGIN ?

END ?

4 How will the activity contribute to community cohesion principles? (see attached sheet)

Describe how the activity addresses the difficulties faced by your target group.

About you and your group

Main Contact		Second Contact	
---------------------	--	-----------------------	--

Address		Address	
Postcode		Postcode	

Tel no. (day)		Tel no. (day)	
Tel no. (evening)		Tel no. (evening)	
e-mail		e-mail	

What are the best times to telephone the main contact ?	
--	--

If you have any communication needs, what are they? <i>(please tick as appropriate)</i>
Textphone <input type="checkbox"/> Sign Language <input type="checkbox"/> Other language <input type="checkbox"/> please say which:
Other (please specify)

In which geographical area(s) (e.g. district, borough, ward, or estate) does your group work?	
--	--

Considering the activity you wish to undertake, which sections of the community is specifically targeted (ie young people, elderly, BME etc):

If your group is not based in Hartlepool then you must obtain a letter of endorsement from a relevant Hartlepool based group in support of the application.

Please describe what your group does:
PLEASE ENCLOSE A COPY OF YOUR CONSTITUTION OR SET OF RULES

How many people are involved in running your group?			
Number of Committee Members		Number of paid Staff working 30 hours or more	
Number of Volunteers		Number of paid Staff working under 30 hours	

When was your group formed?	
------------------------------------	--

Please enclose a set of your most recent accounts. If you are a new group please provide projected income and expenditure for the next 12 months.

Name of group's bank account to which cheque will be made payable (If you do not have a bank account please contact HVDA on 01429 262641)	
--	--

HVDA will need to share information regarding your application with third parties (Grants Panel members), please state if you agree to this: YES / NO (delete as appropriate)

Declaration: to be signed by two authorised signatories from the group, as detailed in the Contact Section of this form.

We, the undersigned representatives of the group making this application, confirm that the information provided is accurate to the best of our knowledge. Should the application be successful we agree to ensure that proper records are maintained of the funded activities and to provide monitoring and financial information as and when required.

Signature	Name in Block Capitals	Position in Group	Date
1			
2			

Check list:

Have you included the following documents with this application (✓)

Your group's rules or constitution	
Your annual accounts or statement of income and expenditure for the last 12 months	

**Please return the complete application to the Grants Administrator,
Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency,
Rockhaven, 36 Victoria Road, Hartlepool TS26 8DD**

Tel. 01429 262641

Fax. 01429 265056

PLEASE NOTE: Information in this form will be used for monitoring purposes and will be recorded in a database. However, individual details will not be made public without permission.

NAME OF GROUP.....

TO ASSIST THE COMMUNITY COHESION FUND GRANTS PANEL MAKE THEIR DECISION THEY NEED TO KNOW THE TYPES OF PEOPLE WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM YOUR PROJECT

Please indicate the **expected/estimated number of people in each category who are likely to benefit** from your project. It is likely that the people that your project will benefit can be classed under a number of categories but please limit the categories you select to a **maximum of five**.

Categories of beneficiary	Number
Local Residents	
Children (up to 13 years)	
Young People aged 13 - 25	
People aged 26 - 49	
People over 50 years	
People who are from black and ethnic minorities	
People with disabilities	
Unemployed people	
Lone Parents	
Ex-offenders	
Drug users	
Refugees/Asylum seekers	
Homeless people/rough sleepers	
People with basic skills needs	
Travellers	
Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian & Transgendered	
Other (please describe)	

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL YOU WILL NEED TO KEEP:

- Records of the number of people who benefit under the categories that you have indicated above
- Copies of relevant receipts/invoices for items or services purchased with the award

THIS INFORMATION WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A MONITORING FORM APPROXIMATELY 1 MONTH AFTER YOUR PROJECT ENDS.

DOCUMENTS STORED AT HVDA RELATING TO GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE INSPECTED BY AUDITORS ON BEHALF OF HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL TO ENSURE THAT THE DECISIONS MADE BY THE GRANTS PANEL HAVE BEEN BASED UPON THE APPROPRIATE CRITERIA AND THAT THE FUNDED ACTIVITY HAD TAKEN PLACE AND WAS PAID FOR BY THE AWARD.

THE COMMUNITY COHESION FUND

PROMOTING GREATER COHESION WITHIN COMMUNITIES HAS FORMED AN IMPORTANT STRAND OF GOVERNMENT POLICY SINCE 2001. IN 2007 THE MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNITY COHESION MOVED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHO DEFINED COMMUNITY COHESION AS "... WHAT MUST HAPPEN IN ALL COMMUNITIES TO ENABLE DIFFERENT GROUPS OF PEOPLE TO GET ON WELL TOGETHER. A KEY CONTRIBUTOR TO COMMUNITY COHESION IS INTEGRATION WHICH IS WHAT MUST HAPPEN TO ENABLE NEW RESIDENTS AND EXISTING RESIDENTS TO ADJUST TO ONE ANOTHER."

COMMUNITY COHESION PRINCIPLES

- Provide support to build capacity, confidence and trust within communities, which leads to greater resilience and sense of belonging to their neighbourhood.
- Encourage greater cross cultural, cross community (communities of interest and geographical) activities to encourage meaningful interactions between people from different backgrounds.
- Strengthen communities using community safety themes of crime prevention and addressing anti social behaviour.
- Ensure that people from different backgrounds can have similar life opportunities.
- Building the capacity of local people to participate in the improvement of their own areas
- Enabling different communities to come together to improve greater understanding and cohesion between groups in Hartlepool.
- Generate and create opportunities to work constructively with a broad range of agencies enabling people from different backgrounds to come together and experience new opportunities collectively.
- Shared future vision and a safe sense of belonging to the whole community.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY COHESION?

Community cohesion can seem intangible, making it hard to explain or justify what works to build cohesion and so get support for it. A community in which nearly everyone is similar is not automatically cohesive.

Cohesion is not about trying to make everyone the same; it is about giving people the skills to respect difference, to cope with change and welcome new residents.

Differences between people go much wider than race or faith – age, income, class or even lifestyle may be the cause of divides in some areas.

Cohesion is about trying to influence attitudes and behaviours.

Cohesion is about people pulling together – people helping each other.

Even the level of deprivation, which is the strongest influence on cohesion, can only explain a few percentage points of difference.

Improving cohesion is about addressing multiple issues at the same time.

Research suggests that there are relationships between cohesion and a number of areas, including:

- Community empowerment including people helping each other out, coming together to solve problems and trusting one another
- Volunteering
- Equalities and perceptions of fair treatment
- Preventing crime and anti social behaviour
- Sense of belonging and having friends from different backgrounds, which will bring other benefits.

There is a risk that cohesion can become over focussed on ethnic minorities – when it is about everyone in society.

FACTORS WHICH CAN AFFECT COMMUNITY COHESION

- Low level of pride in local area or some groups not feeling they belong.
- Low level of trust of others, or of or by some particular groups.
- Fear of crime, feeling unsafe after dark or fear of racist crime.
- Low levels of people having friends in another ethnic group.

EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY COHESION

Delivery of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

Connecting Cultures sessions involving minority and minority ethnic groups sharing food and talking about their history and culture with each other

Events organised with the aim of bringing the community together to recognise similarities rather than differences (evidenced outcomes necessary)

Mini clean sweeps organised in areas

A service giving young people from a range of different backgrounds and communities the opportunities to interact in a structured and creative environment

Reducing the negative perceptions of young people and increase intergenerational understanding of all young people. By engaging different generations together, stereotypes can be challenged, and the fear of crime reduced and cohesion strengthened. Encourage more intergenerational activities, bringing different generations together in structured environments to learn new skills, enjoy fun events, and participate in sport, art and culture and to share life experiences and learn from each other

Positively working to bring young people from a range of backgrounds together to engage in positive structured activities, and in so doing, create better understanding of each other.

In many areas a key issue is territorialism among young people. You may wish to engage with them or youth workers to identify where they feel unsafe or where they feel the borders or flashpoints are.

Helping young people develop the skills necessary to participate positively in the local community.

Encourage intergenerational understanding (ie war veterans talking with pupils about their wartime experience, or a local history project promoting intergenerational insight)

One off events ie cross cultural/intergenerational cooking project

Continue to develop initiatives and work in partnership to counter anti social behaviour (including homophobic abuse/racism/ageism etc) and counter the fear of crime.

Promote the positive initiatives involving diverse communities

Bringing together owner occupiers and tenants on estates

Hold specific events that will bring different communities together either geographical communities or communities of interest/culture, enable different groups of people to come together to share a common experience. Ensure that these events have a clear purpose and outcome.

Develop a project to counter negative stereotyping and common perceptions to promote the achievements of all groups working towards community cohesion.

Stereotypes and common perceptions instead of myths and myth busting

Bringing different communities together in constructive positive activities or alternatively offering pro social activities to those who have become disengaged from the community, helping to build strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds.

Enable different groups of people to come together to share their different perspectives, and work together to reach a common and better vision for them all giving groups a strong sense of shared belonging and focus on commonalities rather than difference.

Challenge stereotypes and encourage genuine cross cultural and cross faith relationships to be developed.

Ability to bring people together in a supportive environment offering a range of activities to improve and enhance their life opportunities.

Enabling members of the local community to interact in a structured environment creating a sense of shared local values and community across cultures and generations.

Community structures can be key to bringing people together and also in calming tensions. Questions which can be asked are:

- What youth provision is there?
- What are the range of organisations involved in community cohesion and the operational links between them?
- What voluntary and community groups are active in what area? What services to they provide?
- Are faith groups undertaking service or support provision? Where are they and what do they do? Are there interfaith groups?

The Community Cohesion Fund Grants Panel has a responsibility to ensure a balance of small to large grants. Grants of up to £5,000 can be awarded for single projects or activities. The maximum award per group in any one year is £5,000.

THE CRITERIA BY WHICH APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED

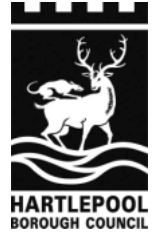
- Specific items and a breakdown of the costs must be provided in the application. If the amount required is less than the cost of the entire project the specific items that require funding must be indicated
- Does it respond to local needs and priorities?
- Does it have the support of the relevant community?
- Will it increase community involvement or empowerment?
- Does it add to existing levels of community activity?
- Does it provide value for money in increasing skills and knowledge and encouraging community participation?
- Does it contribute to a distribution of funding which reflects the needs of a diverse community?
- Does the group have a commitment to equal opportunities in its working practices?

ITEMS INELIGIBLE FOR COMMUNITY COHESION FUNDING

- Activities undertaken outside of England
- Any costs that do not represent an additional cost exclusively incurred as a result of work carried out for the purposes of the Community Cohesion programme
- Overheads allocated or apportioned at rates materially in excess of those used for similar work carried out by the organisation
- Costs paid or liabilities incurred before signature of any funding agreement letter
- The cost of work or activities that any other person has a statutory duty to undertake
- Political or exclusively religious activities
- Payments made for contracts worth £5,000 or more, not let by competitive tender
- The construction or acquisition of buildings/the acquisition of freehold or leasehold rights over land
- Unpaid liabilities/provisions/contingent liabilities/contingencies
- Payments in advance of need/interest charges
- Service charges arising on finance leases, hire purchase and credit arrangements
- Costs resulting from the deferral of payments to creditors
- Depreciation and amortisation of fixed assets, or any part of the cost of fixed assets, paid for by this grant
- Payments for unfair dismissal/redundancy payments and compensation for loss of office
- Payments into private pension schemes/payments for unfunded pensions
- Bad debts arising from loans to trustees, proprietors, partners, employees, directors, shareholders or guarantors of the programme manager, or a person connected with any of these
- Gifts, prizes and alcohol
- Entertaining/Travel and subsistence that would give rise to a taxable benefit were the cost to be incurred by, but not borne by, an individual.
- VAT that is reclaimable by the funded organisation or becomes reclaimable during the period that the organisation benefits from grant funding/other tax (except PAYE)
- Statutory fines and penalties/criminal fines and damages

**COMMUNITY SAFETY AND HOUSING
PORTFOLIO**

Report to Portfolio Holder
19th November 2010



Report of: Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)

Subject: STRANTON CONSERVATION AREA
APPRAISAL

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek Portfolio Holder approval of a visual assessment that has recently been carried out in the Stranton Conservation Area.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report outlines the background to appraisals. It summarises the public consultation that was carried out and the responses to this. These responses were incorporated into the document prepared by officers who carried out physical surveys alongside looking at existing documents. In addition the conclusions drawn in the appraisal are outlined along with action plans addressing the main issues that have arisen.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

Conservation falls within this Portfolio.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non – key decision.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Portfolio Holder on 19th November 2010.

6. DECISION REQUIRED

That the Portfolio Holder notes the appraisal and agrees to the action plan.

Report of: Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)

Subject: STRANTON CONSERVATION AREA
APPRAISAL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek Portfolio Holder approval of a conservation area appraisal report for Stranton Conservation Area.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Appraisals are a means of assessing the key factors contributing to the appearance and character of existing and potential conservation areas, local authorities are encouraged to undertake periodically conservation area appraisals. There is no formal requirement for the form and content of appraisals, or the methodology to be used.

2.2 The appraisal report for Stranton follows a similar format for the earlier reports on Church Street, Seaton and more recently Elwick and Greatham, based on the framework given by English Heritage in its advisory documents "Guidance on conservation area appraisals". The appraisal describes the conservation area giving its location, setting, main architectural qualities and a history of the area. An assessment is included of the current condition of the conservation area in terms of its strengths and weaknesses and how the latter might be improved.

3. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

3.1 The document was prepared by Officers who carried out research looking at existing documents alongside physical surveys of the conservation areas. The document that was produced outlined the current position of the conservation area however the conclusions and action plans were compiled on completion of the public consultation.

3.2 The conservation area appraisal for Stranton has been subject to public consultation. The consultation took the form of inclusion on the Council's website, and a letter sent to the Ward Members including a copy of the report inviting comments. Further direct consultation with Stranton residents was undertaken by means of a leaflet drop. 120 leaflets were delivered to all properties within the conservation area. Key buildings such as public houses and shops were provided with leaflets to give out to customers. Boxes were left in five properties across the area for residents to return their questionnaires. These

properties were Stranton DIY, Cora's Newsagents, Hartlepool Housing, Bridge Veterinary Group, and Stranton Social Club.

- 3.3 Forty one responses (34%) were returned in the boxes that had been left in the conservation area. A break down of the responses can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.4 It would appear from the consultation that there is strong support for the conservation area. Respondents were presented with four statements regarding the conservation area on the subject of conserving the finer details on properties and ensuring the alterations and extensions were sympathetic to the character of the area. In all cases the majority of respondents reacted positively to these statements. Two questionnaires provided additional comments; these are outlined in Appendix 1.

4. SUMMARY OF APPRAISAL FINDINGS

- 4.1 Stranton Conservation Area Appraisal – Overall the conservation area appraisal report concluded that the character of Stranton was finely balanced between the positive aspects which support Stranton being a conservation area and those negative aspects which would not support it being so. The quality of Stranton and its status as a conservation area comes from the traditional detailing such as shopfronts, windows and doors which are evident within the area despite the more recent works to both commercial and residential properties in the area. The report however has also addressed the following issues in the future management of the Stranton Conservation Area:

- Building appearance.
- Design of advertising.
- Maintenance of the street environment.

- 4.2 **Building Appearance** - The report indicates the quality of the Conservation Area is reduced by inappropriate alterations to buildings, poor design and maintenance in the context of a conservation area. The report noted the example of properties in Vicarage Gardens where some of the traditional appearance has been lost by inappropriate alterations. Long continuous horizontal frontages have removed the variety and interest that a number of differing traditionally detailed frontages would provide. Part of the solution to achieve an improvement would be to provide building design advice to owners particularly concerning shop front design. A leaflet "Shop front Design Guide" already exists along with a Supplementary Guidance Note in the Local Plan providing guidance on shopfronts and advertisements. These could be adapted and expanded in a leaflet to be applicable to Stranton.

- 4.3 **Design of advertising** – The type of design and detail of advertisements to buildings and shop fronts can have a positive impact on the appearance of Stranton as a Conservation Area. The leaflet on “Shop Front Design” mentioned above could be adapted to address good design of advertisements on buildings and shop fronts in the context of a conservation area. The integration of roller shutters into the overall shop front design can enhance the character of individual buildings and the wider appearance of Stranton and the leaflet could address this issue as well.
- 4.4 **Maintenance of Street Environment** – If building owners or new owners are to be encouraged to invest in empty buildings, decorate their buildings and be more careful in their proposals for advertisement and painting of shop fronts then the maintenance of the street furniture needs to be addressed. Subject to appropriate budgets being available a regular schedule of maintenance would address this issue.
- 4.5 **Next steps for Stranton Conservation Area Appraisal** – an action plan has been produced outlining the issues in the conservation area and the way in which these can be addressed through existing working practices. A copy of this plan can be found in **Appendix 2**.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That the Portfolio Holder notes the appraisal and agrees to the action plan.

6. CONTACT OFFICER

Sarah Scarr
Landscape Planning and Conservation Manager
Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department
Bryan Hanson House
Hanson Square
Hartlepool
TS24 7BT
Tel – 01429 523275
e-mail sarah.scarr@hartlepool.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

1. Do you agree that it is important to protect the character of the area, by protecting plot shape and size and density levels including open space?

Yes	32 (78%)
No	9 (22%)

2. Do you agree with the importance of responding well to the architectural characteristics of existing historic buildings when looking at new development (including extensions and alterations?)

Yes	32 (78%)
No	9 (22%)

3. Do you agree that particular attention should be paid to the design and quality of shop fronts, doorways and windows when considering new development (including extensions and alterations)?

Yes	32 (78%)
No	9 (22%)

4. Do you think there is a need for additional protection on houses in the conservation area to preserve details such as windows and doors?

Yes	31 (76%)
No	9 (22%)
Not sure	1 (2)

Additional Comments

Now Stranton Pets has brought the shop front back up to standard it would be nice if the shopfronts were the same. Also the Comet, Allied Carpets building needs to be replaced with something more befitting.

There are a few parts of Hartlepool that is exempt from new development, to be honest that it OK to a certain extent but it would be nice and relevant to the integrity of the town to keep its roots as a town to be proud of [sic].

Appendix 2

ACTION PLAN ADDRESSING ISSUES WHICH HAVE ARISEN FROM THE STRANTON CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

Issue	Potential Action
Unsympathetic alterations and loss of traditional architectural details to buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where consent is required, resist unsympathetic alterations and loss of traditional architectural details through positive use of existing development control powers. • Encourage appropriate reinstatement of traditional architectural details in future development negotiations. • Take enforcement action against unauthorised removal of traditional architectural details where a breach of planning control has occurred.
Poor quality shop fronts and signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take enforcement action against unauthorised change of use or removal of a shopfront where there is a negative impact on the character or appearance of the conservation area. • Encourage appropriate reinstatement or sympathetic shopfront and signage design (following guidance in Local Plan Supplementary Guidance Note 5) • Provide a leaflet offering guidance to building owners of alterations to shop fronts similar to that provided by the New Deal for Communities Partnership.
Poor maintenance of buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek improvements to poorly maintained buildings or land by negotiation through the development control process. • Consider a strategy for using Section 215 Notices*¹ to improve quality of built environment. • Serve Section 54 Urgent Works Notices*² on listed buildings at risk, and consider use on unlisted buildings at risk, with agreement from appropriate authorities.
Maintenance of street surfaces and street furniture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the retention/reinstatement of traditional paving and hard landscaping. • Encourage like-for-like replacement, provided material is 'fit for purpose', where damage to street surface occurs. • Where wholesale replacement is required co-ordinate with appropriate sections to ensure consistency and quality of alternative material. • Encourage good maintenance of street furniture, and, where replacement is required that they are of an appropriate design.

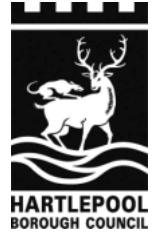
The above table provides a list of issues relating specifically to the conclusions drawn in the Stranton Conservation Area Appraisal. The implementation of the potential actions may depend on the existing and future financial and staff resources that Hartlepool Borough Council departments work within.

*1 A Section 215 Notice is a notice that is served on the owner or occupier when the poor condition and the appearance of the property or land are detrimental to the surrounding area or neighbourhood. The notice requires proper maintenance of the property of land in question, and it specifies what steps are required to remedy the problem within a specific time period.

*2 An Urgent Works Notice is served under section 54 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended, and can be served on a vacant (or vacant parts of a) listed building where works are urgently necessary for the preservation of a listed building. In exceptional circumstances there are special powers available to the Secretary of State to authorise the use of these powers to an unlisted building in a conservation area where the preservation of the building is important for maintaining the character or appearance of the area. The works that can be implemented include making the building weather tight, safe from structural collapse and preventing unauthorised entry, vandalism or theft.

**COMMUNITY SAFETY AND HOUSING
PORTFOLIO**

Report to Portfolio Holder
19 NOVEMBER 2010



Report of: Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)

Subject: NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLANS –
PERFORMANCE UPDATE 2009/10

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Portfolio Holder on the progress made by each of the Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) Forums in 2009/10.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report includes performance information from the ten NAP forums for 2009/10, identifying key achievements and areas/challenges for improvement.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

Neighbourhood Action Plans are part of the Council's Neighbourhood Management Strategy the delivery of which falls within the remit of the Community Safety and Housing Portfolio.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non key.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Community Safety and Housing Portfolio 19 November 2010.

6. DECISION REQUIRED

The Portfolio Holder notes the progress made by each NAP Forum and endorse the full set of Annual Reports provided.

Report of: Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)

Subject: NEIGHBOUROOD ACTION PLANS –
PERFORMANCE UDPATE 2009/10

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Portfolio Holder on the progress made by each of the Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) Forums in 2009/10.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 NAPs are the local elements of Hartlepool's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (NRS), which are used to inform and improve service delivery within the priority neighbourhoods identified in the NRS. The Strategy forms part of the Community Strategy; Hartlepool's Ambition, which provides a strategic policy framework for the Borough.
- 2.2 Each of the 8 priority neighbourhoods has a Forum (with the exception of the North Hartlepool area, which is split into 3 distinct Forum areas) equating to 10 Forums in total. The Forums generally comprise local residents, Ward Councillors, local community and voluntary groups, and service providers.
- 2.3 Each NAP Forum uses their Action Plan to identify an Annual Action Plan, which is then used to target resources, including any budgets allocated to the NAP Forums.
- 2.4 Last year the annual progress of each NAP Forum was reported to the Performance Management Group for the first time. This report was based on a themed analysis and detailed financial breakdowns of how each Forum allocated its budgets.
- 2.5 To build on this reporting arrangement this year, each Forum has prepared an Annual Report for the period April 2009 to March 2010. Each report describes the NAP area and the local partnership working arrangements, the direction of travel (including notable progress made against outcomes), the focus of activity for the year (including a brief case study for each area), and challenges for 2010/11 onwards.
- 2.6 It is hoped that this reporting method will given an overview of the work undertaken by each NAP Forum. Each report has been agreed by the relevant Forum and signed off by the appropriate Forum Chair.

3. KEY OUTPUTS DELIVERED IN 2009/10

3.1 Burbank

- Six jobs created through the Burbank Food Co-op Shop Worker and the commissioning of the Health Audit. One job was sustained through the Community Development Trainee. 34 people (including young people through the Central Youth Forum) gaining access to training and/or improving their skills.

3.2 Rift House

- Key initiatives included: lighting and environmental schemes to improve feelings of safety and parking on the estate; the further development of the Rift House Community Garden at Waverly Terrace; and the development of a newsletter.

3.3 Town Centre Communities

- The Forum commissioned the 'Opening Doors' project to undertake some of the refurbishments underway at St Matthews Hall, and supported the employment of a worker at the orb Centre. The Forum also continued to invest in its young people by allocating funding to the Youth Forum where 20 young people have been involved in managing their neighbourhood and acquiring skills such as budget management.

3.4 Central Estate

- Services Commissioned by the Forum in 2009/2010 included committing the entirety of their WNF budget (£9,200) alongside the other North NAP Forums (West View/King Oswy, Dyke House/Stranton/Grange and Headland) to commission the Opening Doors and Widen Your Horizons Projects to tackle unemployment and address access to training in the North.

3.5 Dyke House/Stranton/Grange

- The aim of the Opening Doors project was to provide valuable constructions training to people living in the North of the town. The Widen Your Horizons project provided locally based information, advice and guidance as well as courses to North residents in their respective communities.

3.6 Headland

- Work has commenced on a Green Strategy for the North area of Hartlepool.

3.7 Throston

- A variety of projects were developed including a series of adult education courses held at the local community centre, investment in new security lights for local households, stop smoking classes, fitness sessions for young people and support for the local library to purchase new books and reading material around the promotion of healthier lifestyles.

3.8 West View/King Oswy

- Tackling high levels of teenage pregnancy in the West View/King Oswy area by commissioning Headland Future to deliver the Young Fathers Support and Sexual Health Drop in Project and supporting the weekly session of the Hartlepool Families First Health Bus (which includes a sexual health and condom distribution service) in the south of the NAP area.

3.9 Owton Manor

- The Owton Forum commissioned the Low Level Repair and Maintenance Project, managed by Connected Care. The project involved the employment of a part time co-ordinator who provided a mobile service to carry out low level repairs and maintenance at the homes of vulnerable people. In addition, the scheme also provided work based placement opportunities for up to six individuals with two part time staff provided through Manor Residents Association's Local Authority, sponsored Helping Hands Project. The project also had an environmental focus by addressing initiatives designed to reduce carbon footprint and will offer practical solutions to reducing the usage of non renewable energy resources. Examples of jobs carried out by the project included path clearing in the bad weather conditions, decorating, gardening, fitting sink waste pipes and changing light bulbs.

3.10 Rossmere

- To encourage young people in the area to develop their skills for life and prepare for employment or training, the Forum purchased six laptops and associated software for young people accessing the Jutland Road Youth Club. Young people now have the opportunity to learn new skills that will have a positive effect on their future employability, they can use these facilities to construct CV's, do job searches, learn basic skills and undertake short accreditation courses.

3.11 Detailed information on each of the NAP Forums performance during 2009/10 is provided in **Appendix 1**.

3.12 Challenges/Areas for Improvement 2010/11

Whilst the annual performance reports demonstrate some of the excellent work being carried out to tackle local priorities, a number of challenges and areas for improvement remain, for example:

- Community Facilities
- Health Inequalities
- Unemployment, particularly Youth Unemployment
- Housing Renewal and the Private Rented Sector

4. **THE BIG SOCIETY DECENTRALISATION AND LOCALISM**

- 4.1 The Government's Big Society seeks to make society stronger by getting more people to work together to run their own affairs locally. It aims to put more power and responsibility into the hands of families, groups, networks, neighbourhoods and locally based communities and to generate more community organisers, neighbourhood groups, volunteers, social enterprises and small businesses.
- 4.2 The Decentralisation and Localism Bill is expected to be published later in November, which will give further direction and indication of Government policy and new ways of thinking to be considered about public services, local problems and the disadvantaged.
- 4.3 Such aspirations cannot be achieved without support and although Hartlepool is fairly well advanced in terms of community engagement, volunteering and social enterprise development, the broad skills which exist within the various teams involved in neighbourhood management and community based regeneration will be important in facilitating such activity.
- 4.4 The NAP Forums provide the Authority with a proven mechanism to deliver the localism agenda. In response to a request, governance details of the NAP Forums have been submitted to Government Office, including information on the Resident Priority Budgets to the new Coalition Government for consideration as a pilot under Big Society.
- 4.5 We are currently participating in the REIP Enabling Good Conversations research which sets out to measure the impact and value of engagement and empowerment activity. A positioning paper setting out the development of a business case is available for information. The final outcomes will be presented to Portfolio when they are available.

- 4.6 The LGIU has set up a Big Society Learning Network. The network will look at the forthcoming Decentralisation and Localism Bill, what it will contain and how it will have an impact on Local Government, the third sector and communities. There will be four round table events between November and March, the details of which are attached in **Appendix 2**.

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 Once the Portfolio Holder has considered the full set of Annual Reports, it is proposed that they are presented to the Hartlepool Partnership at a celebration event held by the Community Network to be proposed to take place in January, to both raise the profile of the work of the Forums and to provide feedback on the annual progress they are making.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Neighbourhood Action Plans work as an effective tool to engage and empower communities in assisting to narrow the gap through direct influence on services evidenced locally through recent evaluations.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 The Portfolio Holder note the progress made by each NAP Forum and endorses the full set of Annual Reports provided.

8. CONTACT OFFICER

Denise Ogden
Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)
Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Civic Centre - Level 3
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Telephone: (01429) 523201
Email: denise.ogden@hartlepool.gov.uk

**Burbank Annual Neighbourhood Action Plan Report April – March
2009/10**

Section 1

Name of Partnership, contact details, budget allocation, and supporting evidence sources:

Name of Partnership:	Burbank Community Forum
Name of Partnership Chair:	Reverend Michael Gilbertson (Independent Chair)
Name of Partnership Vice Chair:	Mary Mostert (Resident)
Contact Officer:	Clare Clark (HBC Neighbourhood Manager Central)
Contact Telephone Number:	01429 855560
Contact Email Address:	clare.clark@hartlepool.gov.uk
Budget Allocation for 2009/10:	Neighbourhood Element £22,136.95 (including £2,136.95 underspend from 2008/09) WNF – Resident Priority Budget £18,318.22 (including £318.22 underspend from 2008/09)
Supporting Evidence Sources 2009/10	Ipsos MORI Household Survey 2008 TVJSU employment/crime/housing data Morrish Household Survey 2008 ERS Neighbourhood Element - Health Theme Evaluation

Section 2

Brief description of NAP Area and Neighbourhood Partnership

Burbank became a Neighbourhood Action Plan area in 2003/4. The neighbourhood is situated to the south east of Hartlepool town centre in the Stranton Ward. It is a small community surrounded by industrial and commercial areas. There is a resident population of approximately 1500 people living in 940 households. The housing stock is made up of 18% owner occupied, 76% social sector rented and 6% privately rented. 14% of the population is aged 15 years or younger, 65% are of working age and 21%

retirement age.

The Burbank Forum is a strong partnership that benefits from a number of active community volunteers with a range of interests and skills. These volunteers regularly give up their time to meet with key partners at Forum meetings to improve services on the estate, and many are actively involved in delivering projects and initiatives. Average attendance at Forum meetings is good (12 residents). Increasing feelings of influence on the estate (Ipsos MORI 2008) and other positive outcomes indicates that the relationship between residents, services, the NAP Forum and devolved budgets is one that is enabling the regeneration of the Burbank neighbourhood to move in the right direction.

Section 3

Direction of travel: Any notable progress made against outcomes including local residents perception of change /gaps to be addressed

The Ipsos MORI Survey 2008 suggests that the Burbank Community is a stronger and more cohesive community compared to 2004. More people feel able to influence decisions, there is a dramatic increase in feelings of community spirit in the area, and more people feel part of their community. Levels of volunteering have also increased on the estate and more residents are satisfied with the area as a place to live.

However, the resident population of the Burbank Community continue to have considerable health needs. Ipsos MORI 2008 identifies only 22% of residents feeling their health to be good, or fairly good compared to 50% town wide. Nearly a third of residents were classed as incapable of work compared to 12.5% across Hartlepool (TVJSU 2008). Almost two thirds have a long standing illness, disability or infirmity compared to 38% across Hartlepool (Ipsos MORI 2008) and 41% of people have anxiety/problems with nerves/depression/stress which is more than double the Hartlepool rate (Ipsos MORI 2008).

The fact that the NAP engages a small number of the population means that there is a gap in the information when making decisions about what the real health needs of the community are. The Forum recognised the need for a robust evidence base to determine the need for services and in early 2010 commissioned a Health Audit jointly funded by the Town Centre Communities Forum.

Section 4

Action Plan 2009/10 – focus of activity/ achievements/outputs during 2009/10 and linkage to outcomes - include factors affecting/impacting on performance eg match funding and relationships with partners – possible case study

Services commissioned by the Forum during the year were largely aimed at addressing worsening health inequalities on the estate, and tackling unemployment and learning and skills. Key initiatives included: physical exercise classes, a podiatry service, complimentary therapies, support for the Men's Health Club, the recruitment of a Part Time Worker to extend the Food Co-op Shop opening hours, media training and production of a newsletter. The Forum also continued to invest in the community and its young people by allocating funding to the Central Youth Forum, commissioning the delivery of a Football Development Project and supporting Bridge Builders and BURT to deliver youth and community activities.

During 2009/10 a neighbourhood agreement between Burbank residents and local services was developed and launched at a 'Good Neighbours Day' event in May 2009. The agreement aims to strengthen the relationship between residents and services and better day to day management of the estate through a set of agreed service standards. The request for new community facilities on the estate identified through the Morrish Survey 2008 was also responded to by establishing a steering group to develop ideas around a multi-purpose centre. The steering group is made up of a number of key stakeholders including representatives of the Forum, HCIL, and Havelock Centre users.

Key outputs delivered in 2009/10 include: 6 jobs created through the Burbank Food Co-op Shop Worker and the commissioning of the Health Audit. 1 job was sustained through the Community Development Trainee. 34 people (including young people through the Central Youth Forum) gaining access to training and / or improving their skills.

Approximately £100,000 of matched funding was also drawn in to assist in addressing Burbank priorities during 2009/10 including

- Just under £50,000 from Community Spaces for the Burbank Commemorative Garden.
- £10,000 Home Office funding for the Central Youth Forum.
- £7,000 secured from Grant Givers by the Youth Forum for the provision of lighting in the Burbank MUGA.
- NHS Hartlepool has provided a Public Health Trainee to analyse the data produced as a result of the Health Audit.
- Six Future Jobs Fund posts through the commissioning of the Health Audit: £22,737.
- Burbank Men's Club: £2,000 Grassroots
- Hartlepool MIND: provided tutors in kind for the Asthma Course to a value of approximately £400.
- Burbank Food Co-op Shop: £2,000 Grassroots.
- BURT: £3,400 Grassroots.
- Section 17 for the upgrading of lighting at St Joseph's RC Primary School: £350, alongside a school contribution of £350.
- £2,895.10 WNF through the sustainability programme for Future Jobs Fund (Community Development Trainee).

- Other funding included: £15k for a zebra crossing on Burbank Street and £3,500 for the alleyway closure on Staindrop Street from HBC, and £56,000 from the national Playbuilder initiative.
- Housing Hartlepool funded a Good Neighbourhoods Day in the area (which also included the signing of the Neighbourhood Agreement), costing approximately £3,500.

Section 5

Challenges/Areas for improvement 2010/11

- Community facilities - Asset Transfer – much discussion in relation to transferring ownership and management of the Havelock Centre to the community has taken place. During 2010 models will be investigated with partners to take this idea forward. However building capacity of local residents and community groups, and the continued willingness of these groups to be involved will be crucial to any further progress being made.
- Health Inequalities – the Health Audit attempts to provide a sound evidence base that will enable services to be designed around the needs of the Burbank Community. Stronger partnership working with Hartlepool NHS is evident, but this needs to be maintained in the future to ensure better health outcomes for Burbank residents.
- Employment – there is a clear need for some targeted work on the Burbank Estate to address barriers to employment working in conjunction with HBC's Economic Development Team – to be addressed 2010/11.
- Community Safety - despite best efforts on the part of the local community to undertake responsibilities for the management and operation of the CCTV system on the Burbank Estate this is proving extremely difficult – consideration needs to be given to residents asking the Council to unconditionally take over the system and incorporate Burbank CCTV within HBC's mainstream provision.
- Strengthening Communities – regular monitoring and review of the Neighbourhood Agreement established in 2009/10 needs to be strengthened to become a meaningful document.
- Reduction in resources - the Forum recognises the challenges faced by reductions in public expenditure but the importance of the resident priority budget in addressing priorities should not be underestimated.

Signed by Paul Nugent (Vice Chair)

Central Estate Annual Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) Report (April 2009 – March 2010)

Section 1

Name of Partnership, contact details, budget allocation, and supporting evidence sources:

Name of Partnership:	Central Estate NAP Forum
Name of Partnership Chair:	Ted Lee
Name of Partnership Vice Chair:	Charlene Twidale
Contact Officer:	Karen Oliver (Hartlepool Borough Council's North Neighbourhood Manager)
Contact Telephone Number:	01429 523680
Contact Email Address:	karen.oliver@hartlepool.gov.uk
Budget Allocation for 2009/10:	Neighbourhood Element: £9,700 WNF - RPB: £9,200
Supporting Evidence Sources 2009/10	Ipsos MORI Household Survey 2008 Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit Data

Section 2

Brief description of NAP Area and Neighbourhood Partnership

The Central Estate NAP Forum was established in the summer of 2006, after the development of the North Hartlepool Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) encompassing the Central, Headland and West View / King Oswy neighbourhoods. The neighbourhood is situated to the north of Hartlepool town centre between the West View / King Oswy and the Headland areas. There is a resident population of approximately 1,655 people living in 715 households (JSU, 2008).

The Central Estate NAP Forum is a proactive partnership that benefits from the attendance of a number of residents many of whom are involved with the Central Estate Management Organisation (CEMO) who give up their time to meet with key partners on a monthly basis. Central Estate Management Organisation (CEMO) is one of only five pilot Housing and Communities Agency funded neighbourhood studies. The Chair of the Forum is actively

involved in a sub group of the Forum to inform and monitor the development of the North NAPs Employment Project. The Forum is well attended and has always been quorate.

Satisfaction levels have increased in the North Hartlepool area, rising from 74% in 2004 to 87% in 2008; of which, the latest figure correlates with the Borough wide and National averages. This demonstrates that the work of the Central Estate Forum, the West View / King Oswy Forum and the Headland Forum together with their devolved budgets is contributing to the regeneration of the neighbourhood. Feelings of being able to influence decision making in the area is also currently similar to the Borough wide average at 22%, however this has decreased since 2006 when it was 34%.

Section 3

Direction of travel: Any notable progress made against outcomes including local residents' perception of change/gaps to be addressed

The Ipsos MORI Household Survey suggests that satisfaction levels have increased in the North Hartlepool area rising from 74% in 2004 to 87% in 2008, which is in line with the Borough wide and National averages. Further to this, a large proportion of people in the North Hartlepool area (89%) feel that their quality of life is good or very good, which also equates with Borough and National averages, and has shown a slight upwards trend since 2006.

However the resident population of the North Hartlepool area continue to suffer from high levels of unemployment (48% of people are classed as economically inactive) and are in receipt of low incomes with the majority of people (29%) living on between £100 and £200 per week.

The 2010 Ipsos MORI Survey will be distributed in October 2010 and we will need to consider this information and how it may shape the NAP priorities.

Section 4

Action Plan 2009/10 – focus of activity/ achievements/outputs during 2009/10 and linkage to outcomes - include factors affecting/impacting on performance e.g. match funding and relationships with partners – possible case study

Services commissioned by the Forum in 2009/2010 included committing the entirety of their WNF budget (£9,200) alongside the other North NAP Forums (West View / King Oswy, Dyke House / Stranton / Grange and Headland) to commission the Opening Doors and Widen Your Horizons Projects to tackle unemployment and address access to training in the North area. The Chair of the Forum attends the project Steering Group and has been instrumental in the tendering process, interviewing project sponsors and once commissioned,

monitoring the project on the Forum's behalf.

In line with their chosen theme of the Community Safety, the Forum commissioned the following projects and/or supported the following initiatives:

- The Forum continued to support Central Correctors to work with young people. Central Correctors held a Halloween Party, a Christmas Party and an Easter Party for young people from the Central Estate which were all very well attended.
- The Forum contributed £3,000 to install traffic calming measures at Hindpool Close. £1,500 match funding was secured from the LTP towards these traffic calming measures.
- Raising the awareness of domestic burglaries, perceptions of crime and crime prevention measures. Andrew Hughes from the Safer Hartlepool Partnership attended two meetings of the Forum. Following this the Forum commissioned a Community Safety Survey which was undertaken in March 2010.
- The Forum commissioned the installation of additional dog and litter bins at locations agreed with local residents to help to address the issues of litter and dog fouling on the estate.
- The Forum commissioned the planting of trees at various locations across the Central Estate again all of these locations were agreed by local residents. Housing Hartlepool match funded the Forum's contribution towards this tree planting.
- The Forum again commissioned a Community Newsletter which was distributed to all of the residents of the Central Estate.
- The Forum continued to support the Community Garden scheme this project is currently awaiting the outcome of a bid to Living Spaces for £49,950 of funding.
- The Forum paid for the provision of a bouncy castle at the Financial Inclusion event which was held in October 2009.

Although not directly funded by Central Estate NAP Forum, a number of projects have been delivered by working in conjunction with key partners including:

- HBC's Adult Education Co-ordinator carried out a household survey, inclusive of NAP priorities to determine the needs of local people, and what barriers they face in accessing adult education courses and / or training.
- Work has commenced on a Green Strategy for the North area of

Hartlepool.

- Recruitment of two Community Development Trainees for the North through Future Jobs Fund.
- Housing Hartlepool match funded the Forum's contribution towards planting trees locations identified and agreed with local residents on the Central Estate

Key outputs delivered in 2009/10 by the West View / King Oswy Forum include:

- North NAPs Employment Project: £67,300 through the Central Estate, Dyke House / Stranton / Grange and Headland Forums.

Match Funding / Leverage in 2009/2010: **approximately £73,000.**

- £70,000 from the Central, Dyke House / Stranton / Grange and Headland Forums towards the North NAPs Employment Project.
- £1,500 Local Transport Plan (LTP) towards the Hindpool Close Traffic Calming Scheme.
- £1,000 from Housing Hartlepool towards tree planting on the Central Estate.

Section 5

Challenges/Areas for improvement 2010/11

The following areas will key priorities for improvement in 2010/2011:

- **Unemployment / Training** – The Central Estate NAP Forum have recognised annually that this is a key issue that requires addressing on a long term basis. During 2010/2011, the North NAPs Employment Project will be evaluated and it is anticipated that the Forum will continue to financially support the project whilst also investigating other options to ensure its sustainability, post WNF funding.
- **Community Garden Scheme** – The Forum will continue to support the Community Garden scheme. This project is currently awaiting the outcome of a bid to Living Spaces for £49,950 of funding, this funding would enable the project to go ahead and be completed by 31 March 2011.
- **North Youth Forum** – the North Neighbourhood Development Officer (NDO) is supporting the development of a North Youth Forum in conjunction with key partners including the voluntary sector. Further funding has been secured, and the Forum is keen to establish links with the group.

- **Engaging with the Wider Community is an ongoing challenge –** need to ensure that the NAP is promoted, particularly in the new build site, Three Rivers properties and West View Road area.

Signed:-----

Ted Lee, Chair

**Dyke House / Stranton / Grange
Annual Neighbourhood Action Plan Report
April 2009 – March 2010**

Section 1

Name of Partnership, contact details, budget allocation and supporting evidence sources:

Name of Partnership:	Dyke House / Stranton / Grange Neighbourhood Partnership
Name of Partnership Chair and Vice-Chair:	Brian McBean (Chair) Linda Shields (Vice-Chair)
Contact Officer:	Karen Oliver (North Neighbourhood Manager, HBC)
Contact Telephone Number:	(01429) 523680
Contact e-mail Address:	karen.oliver@hartlepool.gov.uk
2009 / 10 Budget Allocation:	£57,074.45 (WNF – Residents Priority Budget) £64,200 (Neighbourhood Element) Combined total: £121,274.45
Supporting Evidence Sources:	JSU Employment / Crime / Housing Data (2009) MORI Household Survey (2008)

Section 2

Brief description of NAP Area and Neighbourhood Partnership:

The Dyke House / Stranton / Grange NAP boundary incorporates the Dyke House ward and pockets of both the Stranton ward (Greenwood Road area and Furness, Cameron and Belk Streets) and Grange ward. The NAP boundary was changed in 2008 to include Heather Grove and Wilson Street. There is a resident population of approximately 7,000 people living in around 3,000 households. The NAP area comprises Dyke House Sports & Technology College and Brougham Primary School as well as St. Oswald's Church and the Nasir Mosque. Hartlepool Enterprise Centre, which houses a wide range of small businesses, is also situated in the NAP area. There are two main shopping parades on Raby Road and Chatham Road. Community facilities include Wharton Annexe, the Brougham Centre attached to Brougham Primary School, the Avondale Centre attached to Dyke House Sports & Technology College and Chatham House, all of which provide a range of services and activities to the local community. The recently refurbished St. Oswald's Church Hall is also available for use by the community. The North Cemetery, although outside of the NAP boundary is the main open space available to NAP area residents. A number of Residents Associations represent the NAP area and it is the focus of significant housing market renewal activity.

The Dyke House / Stranton / Grange Neighbourhood Partnership has long established links with many service providers. A core group of residents meet monthly to discuss key issues affecting the neighbourhood and residents quality of life. The Chair and Vice-Chair are resident representatives and are very active in the community. Although the number of resident associations across the neighbourhood has reduced over the past couple of years due to a number of factors, the Neighbourhood Partnership continues to tackle issues affecting the whole community.

Section 3

Direction of travel: any notable progress made against outcomes, including local residents' perception of change / gaps to be addressed

The MORI Household Survey (2008) identifies the Dyke House / Stranton / Grange neighbourhood as one where many residents have lived for 20 years or more. Nearly a third of people have moved into the neighbourhood within the last 5 years.

Over two-thirds (69%) of residents are satisfied with the area as a place to live, which is largely unchanged from 2004. However, residents are still less satisfied than residents of Hartlepool Borough as a whole and are also significantly less satisfied than the national average.

Almost half of residents are owner occupiers, over a third are social renters and about a fifth are private renters. Social renting has increased since 2004 at the expense of private renting.

Almost four-fifths (78%) of people in the neighbourhood feel that their quality of life is fairly or very good. This figure is lower than levels in 2004 and 2006, but not significantly so.

Household income levels of residents seem to have risen slightly since 2004, although there are no clear trends. Levels of income in the neighbourhood are largely similar to those in the borough. 13% of households in the neighbourhood are on incomes less than £100 per week compared to 3% nationally.

13% of residents are unemployed compared to 6% in the Borough as a whole, and the DHSG unemployment level has consistently been around seven percentage points higher than in the Borough as a whole since 2004.

A relatively high proportion of residents of working age in the neighbourhood have no qualifications – over two in five (41%). Moreover, this seems to have risen slightly from 37% in 2004. This level is also considerably higher than in either Hartlepool Borough or nationally.

One in five residents (19%) live in a household containing someone who suffers from anxiety, nervous problems, depression or stress. This has increased gradually since 2004.

Levels of satisfaction with the Police have increased with three in five (60%) residents being satisfied which has risen steadily from 52% in 2004.

A quarter (24%) of residents think that litter is a serious problem in their area. This has, however, declined significantly from 40% in 2004.

Despite a gradual decline from 44% in 2004, the proportion of residents describing drug dealing and use as a serious problem remains high, at almost a third (31%). There has been little change since 2006. Residents of the neighbourhood are significantly more concerned about drugs than their counterparts in Hartlepool Borough as a whole and are also much more worried about drugs than the national average level.

Car crime has declined as a major concern in the neighbourhood from 40% in 2004 to 16% in 2008.

Just under one in five residents (19%) feel that the speed or volume of traffic in their area is a serious problem. This has declined gradually from 31% in 2004.

Just under one third of people in the neighbourhood state that there is a lot of community spirit. This has fallen from 45% in 2006 and is now substantially lower than the 44% figure for the Borough as a whole.

Just over a third (35%) of people living in the neighbourhood say that it is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together. This represents a large drop of 23% points from the 2006 figure of 58%.

Crime and safety and the environment remain at the top of the list of resident's priorities for improving the quality of life in the community.

Section 4

2009 / 10 Action Plan: focus of activity / achievements / outputs during 2009 / 10 and how they link to outcomes – include case study as an example and factors affecting / impacting upon performance, e.g. match funding and relationships with partners

The Dyke House / Stranton / Grange Neighbourhood Partnership realised the benefits of pooling resources with three other NAP Forums in the North to commission two projects as part of the North NAP's Employment & Training Programme. The Dyke House / Stranton / Grange Neighbourhood Partnership committed 100% of their 2009 / 10 Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) Residents Priority Budget basic allocation of £47,400 towards the programme. The aim of the Opening Doors project was to provide valuable construction training to people living in the North of the town. The Widen Your Horizons project provided locally based information, advice and guidance as well as courses to North residents in their respective communities. Alongside this, a number of surveys were carried out by the Council's Adult Education department to determine the learning interests of local residents, particularly in the Chatham Road and Wharton Terrace area.

The Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the four NAP Forums: Dyke House / Stranton / Grange, West View / King Oswy, Central Estate and Headland have been heavily involved in the programme as part of a steering group. Their involvement in the process included the tendering aspect, interviewing, selection, regular monitoring of progress and the evaluation undertaken by ERS Consultants. The two projects, with a few tweaks as recommended by ERS Consultants and the Forum Chairs and Vice-Chairs have recently been given the go

ahead to continue until March 2011. The Dyke House / Stranton / Grange Neighbourhood Partnership has again committed 100% of their 2010 / 11 Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) Residents Priority Budget basic allocation towards the programme's continuation.

In addition, the Neighbourhood Partnership committed £28,435 of their 2009 / 10 Neighbourhood Element allocation to the phased refurbishment of St. Oswald's Church Hall in Milbank Road. This funding enabled the purchase of materials such as a fitted kitchen, toilets etc and the Opening Doors element of the North NAP's Employment & Training Programme provided free labour in refurbishing the Hall and at the same time provided local resident trainees with work experience in the construction sector.

The Neighbourhood Partnership commissioned the delivery of a Spring Community Fun Day, which was part funded by the Neighbourhood Partnership and Connecting Communities funding. Health related as well as employment and training service providers were in attendance and activities for all ages were available. Health service providers were involved in the initial planning and delivery of the event, which was attended by nearly 600 people. Information obtained at the event through surveys etc was analysed and used by the Neighbourhood Partnership in setting their 2010 / 11 priorities. The event followed the successful Halloween event, organised by the Council's Community Regeneration Team as part of the Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) review process, which the Neighbourhood Partnership fully supported.

Safer Hartlepool Partnership, on behalf of the Neighbourhood Partnership were commissioned to support local residents in social housing to secure their properties across the area but particularly in the Perth / Hurworth / Gray Street area, which is a Housing Market Renewal site. Activities also involved making the Lime Crescent area safer and open with the aim of designing-out crime, along with reassuring residents of that area and improving / upgrading street lighting. They were also commissioned to address street lighting issues elsewhere including Chatham Road shops and the Raby Road entrance to the Avondale Centre.

The Neighbourhood Partnership has over many years strongly supported the need for young people's activities locally to give them something to do and to deter them from getting into trouble. There appeared to be a gap in provision for young people between the ages of 8 and 13, the Neighbourhood Partnership recognised this and commissioned Headland Future to deliver the Young Futures project with £18,840 of their 2009 / 10 Neighbourhood Element allocation.

The neighbourhood has limited green space and the Neighbourhood Partnership has therefore supported a number of environmental improvements in the area including tree planting in various locations. Also, to complement the environmental improvements in St. Oswald's Street, Wharton Terrace and Mapleton Road which have been undertaken during recent years, the Neighbourhood Partnership supported tree planting, top soiling of grassed raised bed areas and bulb planting in Parton Street. Feedback from residents of this area in relation to the improvements has been very positive. Residents have indicated that their satisfaction levels with their immediate area have increased. It is hoped that the activities associated with the empty property strategy which have included making empty properties looked live in and liaising with landlords to take down 'To Let' signs etc will help to stabilise the area, which is adjacent to a Housing Market Renewal site.

The issue of dog fouling continues to be a problem, not just in the Dyke House / Stranton / Grange neighbourhood but across the town. The Neighbourhood Partnership has

supported the installation of many additional dog bins over the years with three installed across the area during 2009 / 10.

A walk audit was suggested by the Neighbourhood Partnership to assess issues including dog fouling, litter, property maintenance, access etc in the Raby Road area. The resulting issues are being dealt with. This was a pilot project which will be rolled out into other areas within the neighbourhood.

Other projects that have been delivered in association with the Neighbourhood Partnership, but not directly funded by them include:

- the recruitment of three Community Development trainees for the North area via the Future Jobs Fund;
- a programme of Adult Education courses was developed, based on information gathered via consultation with residents at Fun Days, surveys etc;
- various issues in Tweed Walk were followed up following a request from a resident;
- Dyke House School acknowledged the Neighbourhood Partnership's support in relation to traffic restrictions on the Avondale Gardens entrance, which is now being looked at as part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme;
- environmental type works carried out across the neighbourhood by Future Jobs Fund trainees;
- work has commenced on a Green Strategy for the North and;
- an informal play area has been created on Brougham School land.

During 2009 / 10, the Neighbourhood Partnership was successful in attracting approximately £52,500 in match funding directly relating to commissioned projects. The Home Office allocated £10,000 towards the North Youth Forum, which was committed to various projects by the young people involved.

Section 5

Challenges / areas for improvement during 2010 / 11:

Challenges ahead include the loss of the Neighbourhood Element funding, which ended in March 2010. This pot was used over the past four years to address community safety issues, the Neighbourhood Partnership's chosen theme. The WNF Residents Priority Budget has also been reduced, in line with the Government's 10% cut to the overall WNF programme. Tackling some of the Neighbourhood Partnership's priorities require considerable resources, which are becoming more and more limited. This means that the Neighbourhood Partnership will have to make more use of its long established links with its partners and increase awareness of its priorities with Theme Partnerships, the North Neighbourhood Forum and Joint Action Group (JAG). It may want to create sub-groups to tackle issues such as walk audits and projects such as the creation of the newsletter. It may also benefit from again pooling resources with other North NAP Forums to address common priorities. The sustainability of projects will also have to be explored.

The Neighbourhood Partnership's biggest priority during 2010 / 11 is to continue to tackle unemployment and increase participation in training locally. This will be addressed by the continuation of the North NAP's Employment & Training Programme until the end of March 2011. In addition, it is anticipated that volunteering will be promoted as part of the

programme. Although both the Opening Doors and Widen Your Horizons projects have been adapted slightly and are now operating with a reduced budget, mainly due to adapted ways of working and mainstreaming some provision, they will continue to directly address the Neighbourhood Partnership's priorities under both the Jobs & Economy and Lifelong Learning & Skills themes. The Neighbourhood Partnership will continue to regularly monitor the progress made by the projects, particularly in relation to outputs, outcomes and sustainability post March 2011.

A key factor in the work undertaken by the Neighbourhood Partnership is promoting it, letting residents know what has been and is being done to improve the neighbourhood. Residents naturally perceive that nothing is going on in the neighbourhood as they rarely hear about projects, initiatives, activities etc. It will be used to signpost residents to the appropriate organisation in relation to activities. A sub-group will be set up to prepare a newsletter which will be issued to all households. The newsletter will not only provide the Neighbourhood Partnership with an opportunity to promote itself with a view to engaging new members but will also provide an opportunity for Residents Associations to promote themselves too. Residents Associations play a very important part in the community and have been declining over the past couple of years. It is recognised that they need support in some cases to overcome difficulties, due to Chairs moving on or in ill health and little interest shown by others to continue. At one point it looked like Hartwell Residents Association was to fold but with help from the Council's Central Neighbourhood Development Officer, is back up and running.

Although interest has been shown by some residents to become involved in the Neighbourhood Partnership during consultation via surveys etc, very few have taken up the opportunity. On a number of occasions during 2009 / 10, the Neighbourhood Partnership struggled to be quorate (5 residents) at meetings. Recently, however, attendance has started to pick up again with 5 / 6 residents attending, although a key challenge is to maintain and indeed improve upon this in some way. Consultation in targeted areas has taken place and it is anticipated that this will continue.

It is fortunate that the Neighbourhood Action Plan is in the process of being updated, which has enabled a lot of consultation to take place with residents (using WNF and Connecting Communities funds), which started with the Halloween Event in 2009. Information obtained throughout all consultation has helped the Neighbourhood Partnership to set their priorities for 2010 / 11. This means that their priorities reflect the views and opinions of many other residents in addition to the core group of 5 / 6 who meet on a monthly basis.

In relation to 2010 / 11 and 2011 / 12 priorities and in addition to those mentioned above, the Neighbourhood Partnership wishes to:

- promote volunteering through the Widen Your Horizons project in particular;
- explore opportunities for community enterprise projects;
- explore the possibility of carrying out a health audit in the area, linking in with the feasibility of a pharmacy being located in the area;
- further develop links with mental health service providers;
- provide information to residents on what to do if they find drug litter;
- continue to support improvements in North Cemetery, where appropriate and in association with the Friends of North Cemetery;
- continue to carry out the walk audits throughout the area to identify issues relating to litter, dog fouling, access, road safety, transport etc and set-up a sub-group to tackle

resulting issues;

- explore the possibility of implementing a one-way system on Greenwood Road;
- link into the derelict land and empty property strategy and identify problem properties;
- explore the possibility of including several problem streets in the Selective Licensing scheme;
- keep up-to-date with Housing Market Renewal activity and;
- work with the Council's Sports Development team to determine what health and fitness activities are available in the area and identify gaps in provision.

.....
Brian McBean, Chair, Dyke House / Stranton / Grange Neighbourhood Partnership

Headland Annual Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) Report (April 2009 – March 2010)

Section 1

Name of Partnership, contact details, budget allocation, and supporting evidence sources:

Name of Partnership:	Headland Forum
Name of Partnership Chair:	David Jones
Name of Partnership Vice Chair:	Vacant
Contact Officer:	Karen Oliver (Hartlepool Borough Council's North Neighbourhood Manager)
Contact Telephone Number:	01429 523680
Contact Email Address:	karen.oliver@hartlepool.gov.uk
Budget Allocation for 2009/10:	Neighbourhood Element: £11,200 WNF: £10,700
Supporting Evidence Sources 2009/10	Ipsos MORI Household Survey 2008 Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit Data

Section 2

Brief description of NAP Area and Neighbourhood Partnership

The Headland Forum was established in late 2006, after the development of the North Hartlepool Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) encompassing the Central, Headland and West View / King Oswy neighbourhoods. The neighbourhood is situated to the north of Hartlepool town centre in the St Hilda ward. There is a resident population of approximately 3,525 people living in 1,800 households (JSU, 2008).

The Headland Forum is a proactive partnership that benefits from the attendance of a number of residents who give up their time to meet with key partners on a monthly basis. The Chair is actively involved in a sub group of the Forum to inform and monitor the development of the North NAPs Employment Project.

Satisfaction levels have increased in the North Hartlepool area, rising from

74% in 2004 to 87% in 2008; of which, the latest figure correlates with the Borough wide and National averages. This demonstrates that the work of the Central Estate Forum, the West View / King Oswy Forum and the Headland Forum together with their devolved budgets is contributing to the regeneration of the neighbourhood. Feelings of being able to influence decision making in the area is also currently similar to the Borough wide average at 22%, however this has decreased since 2006 when it was 34%.

Section 3

Direction of travel: Any notable progress made against outcomes including local residents' perception of change/gaps to be addressed

The Ipsos MORI Household Survey suggests that satisfaction levels have increased in the North Hartlepool area rising from 74% in 2004 to 87% in 2008, which is in line with the Borough wide and National averages. Further to this, a large proportion of people in the North Hartlepool area (89%) feel that their quality of life is good or very good, which also equates with Borough and National averages, and has shown a slight upwards trend since 2006.

However the resident population of the North Hartlepool area continue to suffer from high levels of unemployment (48% of people are classed as economically inactive) and are in receipt of low incomes with the majority of people (29%) living on between £100 and £200 per week.

The NAP engages a small number of the population, which is only representative of one section of the NAP area. Consequently there is an identifiable gap in the information and at the end of 2009/2010, some targeted survey work in the under represented area of Earl Street/Howard Street area has been undertaken by HBC officers on behalf of the Forum.

Section 4

Action Plan 2009/10 – focus of activity/ achievements/outputs during 2009/10 and linkage to outcomes - include factors affecting/impacting on performance e.g. match funding and relationships with partners – possible case study

Services commissioned by the Forum in 2009/2010 included committing the entirety of their WNF budget (£10,700) alongside the other North NAP Forums (Central, Dyke House / Stranton / Grange and West View / King Oswy) to commission the Opening Doors and Widen Your Horizons Projects to tackle unemployment and address access to training in the North area. The Chair of the Forum attends the project Steering Group and has been instrumental in the tendering process, interviewing project sponsors and once commissioned, monitoring project development on the Forum's behalf.

In line with their chosen theme of the Strengthening Communities, the Forum commissioned the following projects and/or supported the following initiatives:

- The Forum continued to support the Headland Carnival and the Headland History Group and commissioned £3,200 to support the Headland Carnival and commissioned £2,000 towards the Headland Heritage day.
- The Forum invited Craig Thelwell to attend additional dog and litter bins at locations agreed with local residents to help to address the issues of litter and dog fouling on the estate.
- The Forum worked with HBC Adult Education regarding the availability of skills training opportunities that are available on the Headland. As a result of this IT, English, Maths, Confidence Building courses and a Jobs Club were held at the Borough Hall.
- The Forum commissioned £2,570 towards the planting of trees at various locations across the Headland including the planting of two Yew trees in St Hilda's churchyard.
- The Forum again commissioned the production and delivery of two NAP newsletters at a cost of £1,596.
- The Forum commissioned £1,896 towards installing pedestrian baskets on Durham Street.

Although not directly funded by Headland NAP Forum, a number of projects have been delivered by working in conjunction with key partners including;

- HBC's Adult Education Co-ordinator carried out a household survey, inclusive of NAP priorities to determine the needs of local people, and what barriers they face in accessing adult education courses and / or training.
- Work has commenced on a Green Strategy for the North area of Hartlepool.
- Recruitment of two Community Development Trainees for the North through Future Jobs Fund.

Key outputs delivered in 2009/10 by the West View / King Oswy Forum include:

- North NAPs Employment Project: £67,300 through the Central, Dyke House / Stranton / Grange and Headland Forums.
- £70,000 from the Central, Dyke House / Stranton / Grange and Headland Forums towards the North NAPs Employment Project.

Section 5

Challenges/Areas for improvement 2010/11

The following areas will key priorities for improvement in 2010/2011:

- **Unemployment / Training** – The Central Estate NAP Forum have recognised annually that this is a key issue that requires addressing on a long term basis. During 2010/2011, the North NAPs Employment Project will be evaluated and it is anticipated that the Forum will continue to financially support the project whilst also investigating other options to ensure its sustainability, post WNF funding.
- **North Youth Forum** – the North Neighbourhood Development Officer (NDO) is supporting the development of a North Youth Forum in conjunction with key partners including the voluntary sector. Further funding has been secured, and the Forum is keen to establish links with the group.
- **Engaging with the Wider Community is an ongoing challenge** – need to ensure that the NAP is promoted, particularly in the Earl Street / Howard Street area of the Headland.

2011/2012 Service Planning process

Signed - _____

David Jones

Owton Annual Neighbourhood Action Plan Report April – March 2009/10

Section 1

Name of Partnership, contact details, budget allocation, and supporting evidence sources:

Name of Partnership:	Owton Community Forum
Name of Partnership Chair:	Ray Harriman (Resident / Connected Care)
Name of Partnership Vice Chair:	Tracy McPartlin (Resident)
Contact Officer:	David Frame (HBC Neighbourhood Manager South)
Contact Telephone Number:	01429 523034
Contact Email Address:	david.frame@hartlepool.gov.uk
Budget Allocation for 2009/10:	Neighbourhood Element £48,100 WNF – £39,067.40 Match Funding- £37,546.00
Supporting Evidence Sources 2009/10	Ipsos MORI Household Survey 2008 TVJSU employment/crime/housing data ERS Neighbourhood Element Growing Opportunities Project Connected Care Low Level Support

Section 2

Brief description of NAP Area and Neighbourhood Partnership

<p><u>Owton NAP Area</u> Owton became a Neighbourhood Action Plan area in 2005. The neighbourhood is situated to the South West of Hartlepool. The area covers a fairly large community. There is a resident population of approximately 6,755 people living in around 2,905 households (JSU 2002) which are accommodated predominantly in originally social housing which is largely owned by housing Hartlepool or 'Right to Buy'. The community incorporates a</p>

good range of local facilities including shopping parades at Brierton Lane, Wynyard Road and St. Patricks on Owton Manor Lane. Community facilities include Wynyard Road Community Centre and Library, Owton Rossmere Resource Centre (ORCEL), Manor West Centre, Solid Rock Youth Project and the premises of Manor Residents Association and Owton Fens Community Association (OFCA) from which a variety of services are delivered.

According to the MORI Survey 2008, 68% of residents in the Owton area rent privately or are a social renter with 32% being owner occupier, this is a higher percentage than Hartlepool as a whole. 49% of residents are in paid employment compared with only 30% in 2006. 53% of Owton residents have no qualifications in comparison to 39% as a Borough.

20% of households have a member who suffers from anxiety, problems with nerves, depression or stress. Loneliness/ isolation is suffered by someone in one in ten households (9%), slightly more than Hartlepool Borough (6%) and more than one third (35%) say that they have a long standing illness or disability that limits their activities. This is higher than across Hartlepool (29%) and much higher than the national figure of 19%.

Over half (54%) of Owton residents smoke cigarettes, which is much higher than the Borough as a whole (30%) and the national average is much lower at 22%. This level has remained about the same since 2004, however Borough wide and nationally the figures have been decreasing.

Owton Forum

The Owton Forum is a strong partnership with five community / voluntary groups active in the area and benefits from a number of active community volunteers with a range of interests and skills. These volunteers regularly give up their time to meet with key partners at Forum meetings to improve services on the estate, and many are actively involved in delivering projects and initiatives. Average attendance at Forum meetings is good and attended by residents and representatives from the organisations and partner agencies working in the area. Increasing feelings of influence on the estate (Ipsos MORI 2008) and other positive outcomes indicates that the relationship between residents, services, the NAP Forum and devolved budgets is one that is enabling the regeneration of the Owton neighbourhood to move in the right direction.

The way the Owton NAP runs has recently changed from strategic monthly meetings which were mainly attended by representatives from the organisations and residents. The Forum now meet on a bi-monthly basis with a themed event in between as a means of engaging with more local residents. The first themed event held recently was around health provision and was hosted by Connected Care, which attracted over 150 residents.

South Youth Forum

The Youth Forum was established in 2007 in order to engage with young people in the area. The Forum receives an annual allocation from both the

Owton and Rossmere Forums and meet monthly to address issues and priorities that affect young people in the Owton and Rossmere areas. Details of projects they have commissioned during 2009/10 are listed in section 4.

Section 3

Direction of travel: Any notable progress made against outcomes including local residents perception of change /gaps to be addressed

The Connected Care service and Owton Forum with a contribution from Housing Hartlepool commissioned a Low Level Repairs & Maintenance project to engage with residents and assist in the issues in section 4.

Teenagers hanging around on the street was identified as a serious problem by 41% of residents (Ipsos MORI, 2008). This figure has remained fairly unchanged since 2004. NYPD, Saturday Night Breakaway and activities provided for young people by the variety of organisations are addressing this issue by providing safe places for young people to take part in positive activities.

About a fifth of residents (19%) feel they can influence decisions that affect their area. The Ipsos MORI Survey 2008 suggests that this level has increased steadily since 2004 with 48% of residents stating that there is a lot of community spirit. One third (33%) feel part of the community.

The proportion of Owton residents who were satisfied with the quality of service provided by the Police has increased to 61% in 2008 compared with 44% in 2006. The community has seen problems with neighbours decrease from 10% in 2006 to 6% in 2008.

The introduction of the Council's good tenant scheme has seen referrals from Housing Hartlepool and partnership working with the Neighbourhood Policing Team as well as the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU). This has made a vast improvement within the Owton area.

Section 4

Action Plan 2009/10 – focus of activity/ achievements/outputs during 2009/10 and linkage to outcomes - include factors affecting/impacting on performance eg match funding and relationships with partners – possible case study

The Owton Forum identified priorities under the Jobs and Economy, Lifelong Learning and Skills, Community Safety and Health and Wellbeing themes

during 2009 / 10. The main priorities identified include:

- assisting local residents to build confidence and skills in order to engage in training and find employment and;
- address issues of isolation and recognise the need for low level support for vulnerable people in the community.

The Owton Forum commissioned Growing Opportunities project as well as the Government's Future Jobs Fund Programme helped to address employment and training related issues by targeting residents in the area whilst at the same time addressing Forum priorities with local organisations offering support with a variety of employment opportunities and training schemes.

The Growing Opportunities project's main objective was to provide one to one support for young people, aged 16 and above, who were unemployed. It sought to enhance positive opportunities for young people in the Owton area who have previously experienced strong disillusionment and low motivation. This was achieved through identifying pathways into training programmes, volunteering, work experience and employment, specifically targeted to meet the needs of young people, to ultimately improve their employability.

The project was independently evaluated and recommendations made for improvements, these included improvements in information gathering and increases in client numbers, particularly if the project was to continue during 2010 / 11. OFCA managed the project and realised the potential of continuing it this financial year. The project was adapted to incorporate the recommendations and Owton Forum commissioned the project again for a further year.

As a means of providing assistance to those vulnerable in the community and to prevent accidents in the home, the Owton Forum commissioned the Low Level Repair & Maintenance project, managed by Connected Care. The project involved the employment of a part time co-ordinator who provided a mobile service to carry out low level repairs and maintenance at the homes of vulnerable people. In addition, the scheme also provided work based placement opportunities for up to six individuals with two part time staff provided through Manor Residents Association's Local Authority, sponsored Helping Hands Project. The project also had an environmental focus by addressing initiatives designed to reduce carbon footprint and will offer practical solutions to reducing the usage of non renewable energy resources. Examples of jobs carried out by the project included path clearing in the bad weather conditions, decorating, gardening, fitting sink waste pipes and changing light bulbs.

This project was also externally evaluated and deemed a valuable service which has again been commissioned by the Owton Forum for a further year. It now caters for those aged 60 and over and has been rolled out town-wide.

The Owton Forum continues to support the South Youth Forum and recognises the achievements they have made. In 2009 / 10, the Forum allocated

£3,067.40 to the young people to help them address their priorities. Projects commissioned during 2009 / 10 include:

- the purchase of frisbees (£111.00);
- swimming sessions (£720.00)
- the purchase of TV's and craft materials (£600.00)
- the purchase of a Rockband Computer game (£150.00)
- Graffiti Art Sessions (£327.00)
- Ten Pin Bowling sessions (£859.40)

The success of the South Youth Forum has been such that they were allocated £10,000 from the Home Office and Cleveland Police to commission activities for children and young people to take part in on evenings and weekends to address crime and anti social behaviour issues. The following activities were commissioned:

- 2 touch screen computers for the NYPD (Nurturing Young People's Development);
- Graffiti art sessions at Rossmere Youth Centre and Jutland Road Community Centre;
- Saturday night breakaway project
- Girls taster activities at Rossmere Youth Centre

Total for all projects £10,806.76. The overspend of £806.76 was covered by the Safer Hartlepool Partnership.

In addition to progress made by the Owton Forum, the community / voluntary groups have been very active within the community with a variety of initiatives to address all the themes, including health information sessions, Big Tidy events and numerous fun days.

Section 5

Challenges/Areas for improvement 2010/11

A key challenge will be around limited funding available in the future. The five community / voluntary groups in Owton have over the past four years benefited from funding via the Neighbourhood Element fund, however, this ended in March 2010. The WNF (Working Neighbourhoods Fund) Residents Priority Budget has also been cut due to a cut to the overall WNF programme by the Government.

The Owton Forum have continued to prioritise the Jobs and Economy, Lifelong Learning and Skills, Health and Wellbeing and Community Safety themes and will continue to address:

- unemployment , particularly youth unemployment;

- high levels of smoking and promote healthier lifestyles;
- drug and alcohol dependency and drug dealing and;
- anti social behaviour and congregation of youths.

A further challenge for this year continues to be attendance levels and looking at alternative ways of engagement to increase influence in the area and service provision.

Approved by Chair _____

Ray Harriman

**Rift House Annual Neighbourhood Action Plan Report April – March
2009/10**

Section 1

Name of Partnership, contact details, budget allocation, and supporting evidence sources:

Name of Partnership:	Rift House Community Forum
Name of Partnership Chair and Vice Chair:	Cllr Christopher Akers-Belcher Peter Goodier
Contact Officer:	Clare Clark (HBC Neighbourhood Manager Central)
Contact Telephone Number:	01429 855560
Contact Email Address:	clare.clark@hartlepool.gov.uk
Budget Allocation for 2009/10:	WNF – Resident Priority Budget £24, 821
Supporting Evidence Sources 2009/10	MORI Household Survey 2008 TVJSU employment/crime/housing data

Section 2

Brief description of NAP Area and Neighbourhood Partnership

Following boundary changes to the Rift House/Burn Valley Neighbourhood Action Plan area in 2009 this NAP area now falls exclusively within Rift House Ward. The NAP boundary encompasses the majority of the Rift House ward, and has a resident population of approximately 4,800 people living in 2,373 households. The area is bordered by the Burn Valley Gardens and Waverley Terrace Allotments and, is served by two active Residents' Associations operating across the area, Rift House East Residents Association, and Rift House Community Association.

The boundary change has had a positive impact on how the Forum functions and operates as a cohesive group to effectively address issues, identify priorities and progress appropriate actions. There is also evidence of increased attendance at Forum meetings during this period with an average of between 11-12 residents at each meeting.

Section 3

Direction of travel: Any notable progress made against outcomes including local residents perception of change /gaps to be addressed

The MORI Survey (2008) identifies the Rift House neighbourhood as one where many residents have lived for five years or more, and the vast majority are either social renters or owner occupiers. Satisfaction with the area is high, and residents report that their quality of life is good. Significant improvements in the health of Rift House residents is also identified in the 2008 survey with 22% of Rift House residents saying they have a long standing illness or disability that limits their activities compared to 39% in 2004. This has now taken the neighbourhood to a level slightly lower than the Borough as a whole (29% in 2008) and in line with the national level (19%)

Confidence levels in Policing also increased during this period. However during the same period there was a significant increase in the fear of crime, declining levels of influence, and only two fifths of Rift House residents compared to 51% town wide were in employment. Priority measures to improve quality of life identified by residents in the survey were: transport (particularly parking provision); issues relating to the environment; and the need for play areas for children/facilities for teenagers.

Section 4

Action Plan 2009/10 – focus of activity/ achievements/outputs during 2009/10 and how they link to outcomes - include case study as an example/ and factors affecting/impacting on performance eg match funding and relationships with partners

Declining levels of influence and the lack of voluntary sector infrastructure in the NAP area focused Forum activity during 2009/10 on the development of community facilities, and building the capacity of local residents groups to deliver services to the community that will be sustainable in the future. Key initiatives included: lighting and environmental schemes to improve feelings of safety and parking on the estate; the further development of the Rift House Community Garden at Waverly Terrace; and the development of a newsletter, along with a number of events held to promote cohesion and reach out to the broader community to ensure information on services available and opportunities for getting involved were broadly disseminated. Investment in training for key community activists was also supported through the Forum including conflict resolution and charring skills, media training and food hygiene courses.

The Forum continued to invest in its young people over the year by allocating funding to the Youth Forum, and providing support to St Columbas Youth Café. However one of the most successful projects established in 2009/10 was 'The Rifty' - a drop-in facility for young people aged between 8 and 18 that meets

weekly on a Friday evening. The project provides a safe place for local young people to be participate in a range of supervised activities and is run by a team of dedicated volunteers. It attracts between 45 and 60 young people each week, and is highly valued by young people. Measures to ensure that the project is sustained in the future include the establishment of a Board, and the provision of training for volunteers. This has included the OCN accredited Sports Leaders Award and Food Hygiene Certificates. Training in NVQ Level 2 in youth work is currently being investigated.

Input from partners has generally been good and the Forum has been successful in attracting £43,000 of funding from external sources to match their resident priority budget. The area has also benefited from £64k SCRAPT funding to renew the hard surface in Longfellow and Fletcher walks. Work initiated by the Forum to upgrade Catcote shops in 2007 continued during 2009/10 with the help of HBCs Economic Development and Community Safety teams. This has resulted in a further investment of £72,000 in Catcote shops. The overall result is a shopping parade with improved aesthetics where people want to visit to do their daily shop with vacant units being occupied and local jobs being created/sustained.

Section 5 Challenges/Areas for improvement 2010/11

Development of the Masefield Centre is key to making progressing across all outcomes including employment, training and health. As a matter of urgency some thought needs to be given as to how the centre will continue to provide a facility for the local community as NAP funding comes to an end in March 2011.

Housing Hartlepool continues to be an important partner on the Rift House Estate and there are number of examples of joint working with the NAP. However NAP meetings and Forum activities would benefit from a greater input from Housing Hartlepoons capacity building team.

Although a range of courses have been offered from the Masefield Centre to improve learning and skills there is much more to be done on the estate to tackle barriers to employment in conjunction with HBCs Economic Development Team.

.....
Christopher Akers-Belcher, Chair, Rift House Forum

Rossmere Annual Neighbourhood Action Plan Report April – March
2009/10

Section 1

Name of Partnership, contact details, budget allocation, and supporting evidence sources:

Name of Partnership:	Rossmere Community Forum
Name of Partnership Chair:	Tom Stewart (Rossmere Residents Association and Resident)
Name of Partnership Vice Chair:	Peter Joyce (Resident)
Contact Officer:	David Frame (HBC Neighbourhood Manager South)
Contact Telephone Number:	01429 523034
Contact Email Address:	david.frame@hartlepool.gov.uk
Budget Allocation for 2009/10:	Resident Priority Budget £18,000
Supporting Evidence Sources 2009/10	Ipsos MORI Household Survey 2008 TVJSU employment/crime/housing data

Section 2

Brief description of NAP Area and Neighbourhood Partnership

Rossmere became a Neighbourhood Action Plan area in 2005 and was reviewed in 2007. The neighbourhood is situated to the south of the Borough and covers most of the Rossmere Ward. The NAP area also includes a small part of the Fens Ward, but does not currently include any residential properties. There is a resident population of approximately 5,860 people living in 2,600 households. The community has a good range of local facilities including shopping parades at Jutland Road and Owton Manor Lane, and a variety of community venues such as Jutland Road Community Centre, Rossmere Community Building, Surestart and Rossmere Youth Centre. There are a variety of churches and schools within the area and active residents groups and clubs.

The Rossmere Forum is a strong partnership that benefits from a number of active community volunteers with a range of interests and skills. These

volunteers regularly give up their time to meet with key partners at Forum meetings to improve services in the area, and many are actively involved in delivering projects and initiatives. Average attendance at Forum meetings varies between 5 to 7 residents and is attended by representatives from partner agencies.

The South Youth Forum was established in 2007 in order to engage with young people in the area (regular attendance of 15+), they receive an annual allocation from the Forum and meet monthly to address issues and priorities that affect young people in the Rossmere area, details of projects they have commissioned during 2009/10 are listed in section 4.

Section 3

Direction of travel: Any notable progress made against outcomes including local residents perception of change /gaps to be addressed

Resident satisfaction within the Rossmere NAP area with the neighbourhood as a place to live is high (88%, Mori IPSOS) and remains relatively unchanged since 2004.

The Ipsos MORI survey suggests that there have been significant improvements in the Rossmere area in relation to employment statistics with over half of Rossmere residents are in employment compared to 27% in 2006, and this is in line with employment levels across Hartlepool. 21% of working age residents have no qualifications which is slightly higher than borough wide (20%). Although figures have improved, employment and training remain a priority for the Forum.

There have been significant changes linked to community safety, in particular a decrease in residents feeling safe walking alone after dark. However 85% feel that their area is a s safe or more safe than three years ago.

Health statistics have improved across the area since 2006. There has been a significant increase in the number of residents who say their health has been good, a decrease in the numbers living with limiting long-term illness and a significant decrease in the number of residents smoking.

Speeding traffic is considered a problem by over 25% of residents in the Rossmere area; this has increased significantly since 2004. The Rossmere area has high resident's usage of parks and open spaces however resident satisfaction has decreased since 2004.

There has been significant decline since 2004 regarding the feeling that there is community spirit in the area. There has also been a decline in the number of people that feel that they can influence decisions since 2004.

The Forum recognises the needs of the community and continues to work with service providers to identify the gaps and target resources to address the

issues raised

Section 4

Action Plan 2009/10 – focus of activity/ achievements/outputs during 2009/10 and linkage to outcomes - include factors affecting/impacting on performance eg match funding and relationships with partners – possible case study

Themes identified as a priority by the Forum in 2009/10 were Jobs and the Economy, Life Long Learning and Skills to meet Working neighbourhoods Fund targets. The Forum also prioritised Culture and Leisure and Strengthening Communities as themes to focus projects on over the year. The Forum prioritised themes that they felt able to influence service provision and commission projects with the resources available to them. The forum also works with service providers, e.g. the Police to work on and address issues such as speeding along Rossmere Way and Brierton Lane.

To encourage young people in the area to develop their skills for life and prepare for employment or training, the Forum purchased six laptops and associated software for young people accessing the Jutland Road Youth Club. Young people now have the opportunity to learn new skills that will have a positive effect on their future employability, they can use these facilities to construct CV's, do job searches, learn basic skills and undertake short accreditation courses. HBC Youth Service are using the laptops within their sessions with young people and have provided funding to cover the cost of the internet connection. The Forum also commissioned an employability project to address barriers to employment and meet residents training needs. This initiative did not deliver all of the outputs intended however information gathered through this project will assist the Forum in future provision.

All other initiatives commissioned by the Forum in 2009/10 linked to the Culture and Leisure and Strengthening Communities themes of the NAP. The Forum continues to commission OFCA to run a Youth Project at Jutland Road Community Centre for children aged 8 – 13, this meets a gap in service provision for this age group in the area. This project provides youth activities and information, advice and guidance for two hours, twice a week. Although not directly linked to the Community Safety theme the Forum felt that by providing activities for young people, this would help to reduce instances of anti-social behaviour in the area - this is a concern reported to the Forum by residents groups.

The Forum supports local groups and in 2009/10 support was given to the The Friends of Rossmere park to organise a series of community events including a summer carnival, Ghost Walk and Carol concert. The forum is represented at these events and other similar events in the area.

The Forum continues to support the South Youth Forum and recognises the achievements they have made. In 2009/10 the Forum allocated £1000 to the

young people so they could address issues affecting them.

With the allocation, the South Youth Forum commissioned the following projects:

- Football Coaching
- Team Building project
- OCN Level 2 in Youth Work project
- Street Dance project

The success of the South Youth Forum has been such that they were allocated £10,000 from The Home Office and Cleveland Police to look at activities for children and young people on evenings and weekends to address crime and anti social behaviour. This work has been continued into 2010/11 with the allocation of further funds to the South Youth Forum to deliver projects in the area through participatory budgeting.

The Jutland Road play area was identified as an area to benefit from the Play Builder Initiative. Additional funding for this was obtained from the South Area JAG, Housing Hartlepool and the Mayors Fund. The South Youth Forum were involved in the design of the new play area and the Home and Away Club were active in assisting with the consultation with the community. The Rossmere NAP Forum has actively supported this project through to its completion. Feedback as to the success of the new play area has been extremely positive.

The projects commissioned by the Forum achieved outputs and outcomes including:

- 11 local residents gained accredited training
- 40 people were engaged regarding jobs and economy related issues
- Young people achieving ASDAN accreditations enabled by the purchase of six laptops for use at Jutland Road Community Centre
- Up to 1350 people attending Friends of Rossmere Park events, finding out more information about the work that the Rossmere Community Forum do and how they can get involved.
- On average 16 young people per session accessing services available at Jutland Road Community centre twice a week.

Section 5

Challenges/Areas for improvement 2010/11

The Rossmere Forum have prioritised the same themes to focus on this year building upon the progress that was made in 2009/10.

- **Jobs and the Economy** - The Forum continues to work with providers to look to address barriers to employment and residents training needs. The Forum will look to build upon information that has been gathered over the last year and work with service providers such as HBC Youth Services to develop and commission training projects that target the

needs of young people in the Rossmere area, giving them an opportunity to gain training and employment skills.

- **Life Long Learning and Skills** – Continue to look at barriers to employment training and skills and work with service providers to address gaps in provision.
- **Culture and Leisure** – Continue to support groups providing activities for residents in the area and assisting with sustainability of projects
- **Strengthening Communities** - Continue to encourage more resident participation in Forum meetings and engage with residents to increase awareness of how they can influence decisions in the local area. Look to support the formation of a Rossmere wide Residents Association to incorporate Jutland Road and surrounding areas
- **Police Priorities** – working closely with the police to address issues such as anti social behaviour and speeding traffic particularly on Rossmere Way and Brierton Lane.

A key challenge for the Rossmere Community Forum in the future will be limited funding availability; the Forum will be less likely to have resources to commission projects independently. They will instead have to look for match funding opportunities and work more closely with service providers to ensure that the needs of the local community are met with the Forum continuing to work towards the themes prioritised.

Further challenges for this year will continue to be to address issues around participation and looking at alternative ways of engagement to increase influence and involvement in service provision in the area.

Approved by the Chair _____

Tom Stewart

Town Centre Communities Annual Neighbourhood Action Plan Report
April – March 2009/10

Section 1

Name of Partnership, contact details, budget allocation, and supporting evidence sources:

Name of Partnership:	Town Centre Communities Forum
Name of Partnership Chair and Vice Chair:	Cllr Jonathan Brash Julie Rudge (Resident)
Contact Officer:	Clare Clark (HBC Neighbourhood Manager Central)
Contact Telephone Number:	01429 855560
Contact Email Address:	clare.clark@hartlepool.gov.uk
Budget Allocation for 2009/10:	WNF – Burn Valley £9,390 NDC - £55,000
Supporting Evidence Sources 2009/10	Ipsos MORI Household Survey 2008 TVJSU employment/crime/housing data Burn Valley Survey 2009

Section 2

Brief description of NAP Area and Neighbourhood Partnership

The Town Centre Communities Neighbourhood Action Plan area covers a number of neighbourhoods which skirt the western and southern boundaries of the Town Centre. The area stretches from Hart Lane in the north to the Belle Vue roundabout in the south. It comprises around 4,800 households occupied households and a population of around 9,735. The majority of the area has benefited from the NDC regeneration programme over the past nine years which is due to end in March 2011.

Following the inclusion of part of Burn Valley Ward within the TCC boundary in March 2009 the Town Centre Communities partnership is one which is working well with an average of 12 local residents attending Town Centre Communities Forum meetings. The steady attendance of local residents at NAP meetings indicates that the Forum is evolving into a meaningful body

that will enable the local community to influence services for the benefit of the community when the NDC Programme ends and the existing Steering Group cease to meet.

Section 3

Direction of travel: Any notable progress made against outcomes including local residents perception of change /gaps to be addressed

There have been some significant improvements in the Town Centre Communities area since 2002. The MORI Survey 2008 identifies greater resident satisfaction with the area as a place to live compared to 2002 (increase from 51% to 71%) and 81% of residents rate their quality of life as good. More TCC residents are involved in volunteering, and they also feel safer than in 2002 and less worried about becoming a victim of crime. This is matched by declining levels in actual crime and anti-social behaviour.

However in 2008 the resident population of the TCC Community continued to be dissatisfied about the environment with 43% of residents identifying tackling environmental quality as the most important thing that would improve their quality of life. TCC residents are also faced with considerable health needs – in 2008 only 42% of residents rated their health over the last year as good compared to 49% town wide and 62% nationally. In addition smoking levels were significantly higher than across the borough at 46%. The proportion of residents in paid work in 2008 was also lower than the proportion across the Borough at 43% and like the Borough average of 50% has remained unchanged since 2002.

Section 4

Action Plan 2009/10 – focus of activity/ achievements/outputs during 2009/10 and how they link to outcomes - include case study as an example/ and factors affecting/impacting on performance eg match funding and relationships with partners.

Forum activities during the year were largely aimed at addressing worsening health inequalities, promoting social enterprise and targeted employment opportunities, improving environmental quality, and strengthening the community.

Measures aimed at improving environmental quality included: resurfacing of the highway and installation of drainpipe covers to improve aesthetics and combat damage caused by anti-social behaviour in Dent Street. A 'Reclaim Your Back Lane' initiative in Waldon Street, and work with landlords and HBC Neighbourhood Services to improve the physical environment in Baden Street. Measures to improve road safety were addressed through the installation of a zebra crossing on Brinkburn Road.

Strengthening community Influence and engagement with services was tackled through the development of local resource centres. The Forum commissioned the 'Opening Doors' project to undertake some of the refurbishments underway at St Matthews Hall, and supported the employment of a worker at the Orb Centre. The Forum also continued to invest in its young people by allocating funding to the Youth Forum where 20 young people have been involved in managing their neighbourhood and acquiring skills such as budget management. Consultation on a new NAP for the TCC area was initiated in 2009/10, and the NDC Succession Strategy was approved by HBC Cabinet in September 2009 securing a longer term commitment to involving TCC Communities in managing their neighbourhood.

A 'Health Audit' was also commissioned by the Forum in 2009/10 in conjunction with the Burbank Forum. The audit is being delivered by Manor Residents Association (Connected Care), Hartlepool MIND and NHS Hartlepool and aims to provide a sound evidence base to enable the Forum and partners to consider how funded and mainstream health initiatives can be improved to meet the needs of the local community particularly in relation to access. Marketing of services more effectively through the development of an engagement strategy is a priority.

The Future Jobs Fund programme was targeted at residents of the local area whilst at the same time addressing Forum priorities. This included 10 environmental staff employed by OFCA working under the direction of the Central Neighbourhood Management Team, and two Community Development Trainees based at the Community Safety Office in York Road. 15 jobs were also created through the Health Audit and Opening Doors project.

Match funding to assist in addressing Forum priorities came from local and national funding streams such as the Home Office PB Pilot and Community Cashback, HBC Minor Works budget, the Future Jobs Fund, and Community Cohesion Fund. In-kind support was provided from a number of agencies including the provision of an NHS Public Health Trainee to analyse data and produce a report based on the health audit.

Section 5

Challenges/Areas for improvement 2010/11

Despite a range of interventions that have made significant improvements across the TCC area in recent years, the area continues to be faced with many challenges.

Housing Renewal – schemes at Hart Lane, Sherrif Street, and Thornton/Dalton streets have had a positive impact and it is hoped that the Belle Vue development will commence this year. However the major scheme in Rodney/Hopps/Carr Streets is now stalled awaiting further resources. Alternative ways of making progress in this area need to be explored and effective management of the neighbourhood remains a priority.

Private rented sector – High levels of transience and poor management in parts of the private rented sector remains a significant issue. Implementation of the Landlord Licensing project needs to be accelerated and full range of enforcement and support measures deployed to address this issue.

Empty properties/buildings/land: Derelict buildings and land remain an issue in the area especially in relation to long-standing problems like the Odeon building, land adjacent to the Church of the Nazarene and many empty residential properties. Development and implementation of the Empty Property Strategy is critical to making progress.

Environment – the above issues, alongside the proximity of the town centre takeaways/bars etc. present severe stresses on the environmental quality of the area. The Safer, Cleaner, Greener initiative with its emphasis on enforcement, education and responsive services needs to continue to be prioritised.

Reduction in resources – although the NDC Succession Strategy outlines plans to sustain activity in the area after the programme ends in March 2011, it is inevitable that alongside current 'austerity' measures, there will be less resources in key service areas in the coming year. This emphasises the need for effective community engagement and strong partnership working in key service areas, particularly those focused in the Community Safety Office.

Signed by Councillor Jonathan Brash (Chair)

**Throston Annual Neighbourhood Action Plan Report April – March
2009/10**

Section 1

Name of Partnership, contact details, budget allocation, and supporting evidence sources:

Name of Partnership:	Throston Community Forum
Name of Partnership Chair:	N/a
Contact Officer:	Karen Oliver (HBC Neighbourhood Manager North)
Contact Telephone Number:	01429 523680
Contact Email Address:	karen.oliver@hartlepool.gov.uk
Budget Allocation for 2009/10:	Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) – Resident Priority Budget: £26,465.84
Supporting Evidence Sources 2009/10	Census 2001 Index of multiple deprivation, 2007 Ipsos MORI Household Survey 2008 Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit, 2008 Throston Neighbourhood Action Plan (2009)

Section 2

Brief description of NAP Area and Neighbourhood Partnership

Throston is located in the north of the town. The neighbourhood is encircled by Throston Grange Lane and Wiltshire Way, extends to the west to include St David's Walk and Caernarvon Grove and to the east to include Salisbury Place. The neighbourhood is directly adjacent to Grayfields Recreation Ground.

The Throston neighbourhood is a close knit community. There is a resident population of approximately 2,005 people living in 900 households. The housing stock is made up of 47.7% owner occupied, 44.4% socially rented

including sheltered accommodation (owned by Housing Hartlepool, Tees Valley Housing Group and Anchor Trust) and 7.3% privately rented, which includes Throston Grange Nursing Home. The age profile of the population is 18% under 15 years, 57% between 16 and retirement age and 25% over retirement age.

Throston has a good range of local facilities including a local shopping parade at the top of Wiltshire Way and community facilities such as Throston Grange Library, Throston Community Centre, Throston Youth Project ('the Welly'), Throston Grange Primary School and Springwell School. A doctor's surgery and a dental practice are also located within the neighbourhood.

Community meetings are usually held once every financial quarter. These meetings allow community members the opportunity to come together and discuss local developments and any outstanding issues. The forum has also been the main decision making body with regards to commissioning schemes for 2009/10 and 2010/11 via the WNF Residents Priority Budget.

Section 3

Direction of travel: Any notable progress made against outcomes including local resident's perception of change /gaps to be addressed

Throston's NAP was published last year in June 2009. Arguably the relative infancy of the NAP means that any progress on direction of travel may become clearer at a later date. Over 2009/10 a number of schemes, commissioned via the community's WNF Resident Priorities Budget, were developed to respond to some of the NAP's key priorities. Details of these projects can be located in section 4.

Since the beginning of the NAP's development significant efforts have been made to engage with the community. The consultation process was approached in a number of ways including the organisation of a health event for local people, community conferences and the carrying out of household surveys.

In addition council officers have been regular attendees at Resident Association meetings to discuss community issues. Young people in Throston were also consulted through the development of successful fun days while children from the local primary school took part in special question sessions regarding their community. A number of these consultation processes were well received in Throston and have since been adopted in other NAP areas.

Research indicates though that significant long term challenges remain in the area. Ipsos MORI 2008 identifies relatively high numbers of Throston's population as being economically inactive with the current figure standing at 46%. This is greater in comparison to the Borough average of 42% and the

national average of 36%

From the perspective of health and wellbeing Throston, is one of the 10% most health deprived neighbourhoods in England (Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2007). Approximately 23% of local residents reported their health as not good compared to a 12% national average (Ipsos MORI, 2008). In addition 42% of community members suffer from a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity (Ipsos MORI 2008).

From an educational perspective, 26% of residents from Throston have identified the need to improve their maths skills. This figure is 10% above the Borough average (Ipsos MORI 2008).

Section 4

Action Plan 2009/10 – focus of activity/ achievements/outputs during 2009/10 and linkage to outcomes - include factors affecting/impacting on performance eg match funding and relationships with partners – possible case study

Over 2009/10 a number of schemes, supported by monies from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF), were commissioned by the Throston Community Forum. These projects were specifically designed to respond to key priorities within the NAP. In particular the services commissioned sought to focus on the NAP themes of 'Jobs and the Economy', 'Lifelong Learning and Skills' and 'Health and Wellbeing'.

A variety of projects were developed including a series of adult education courses held at the local community centre, investment in new security lights for local households, stop smoking classes, fitness sessions for young people and support for the local library to purchase new books and reading material around the promotion of healthier lifestyles.

The forum also commissioned the development of a new kitchen at the local primary school. The school's long term plan was to use these facilities to educate community members on the benefits of healthy eating.

Further children's activities were provided via the commissioning of sporting activities for individuals aged 5–11 over the 2009 summer holidays. Diversionary activities were also commissioned for young people aged 13 – 19 via the Throston Youth Project. These excursions included day trips, visits to the theatre, art sessions and drama workshops.

Key outputs delivered in 2009 / 10 year include:

- Six adult education courses delivered including computers skills for beginners, digital imaging, family history, arts and crafts and

employability skills.

- Approximately 55 residents engaged on adult education courses.
- At least 10 residents assisted in attempts to give up smoking.
- An average of 20 young people benefitting from weekly exercise sessions at the Throston Youth Project.

Approximately £20,698 of matched funding was drawn in to assist in addressing Throston priorities during 2009/10 including:

- £5,540 from the Local Authority and school reserves towards the new kitchen facilities at Throston Primary School.
- £250 from Stockton and Hartlepool Specialist NHS Stop Smoking Service to provide regular stop smoking sessions for local residents.
- £6,265 from Housing Hartlepool towards purchasing new security lights for houses in the area.
- £843 from Throston Grange Library towards the purchase of new healthy living books and other reading materials.
- £5,000 from Hartlepool Borough Council's Adult Education section towards delivering a package of adult education courses at the local community centre.
- £800 from Throston Youth Project towards providing regular fitness sessions for young people aged 13-19 years old.
- £2,000 from Hartlepool Police's Youth Participatory Budget towards delivering holiday activities for young people, aged 13-19, during the summer of 2009.

Section 5

Challenges/Areas for improvement 2010/11

The primary aim for 2010/11 is to continue the forum's ongoing commitment to Throston's key NAP priorities, particularly in relation to 'Jobs and the Economy', 'Lifelong learning and skills' and 'Health and Wellbeing'.

One of the key challenges that also must be considered is how community engagement can be increased with residents being encouraged to take a greater part in local proceedings. There is also potential to investigate how the community centre and library can be further developed in order to sustain and

improve their service delivery. Officers are currently considering an amalgamation between the two facilities with the potential to develop a 'community café' initiative.

A series of new schemes have already been commissioned for this new financial year. They include the continuation of adult education courses at Throston Community Centre. These classes are likely to include lessons in the skills of jewellery making, digital imaging, creative paper crafts and how to investigate family histories on the internet. The healthy living fitness sessions for young people aged 13-19 were also re-commissioned for 2010/11.

Other projects will include support for a local children's football team to purchase new playing and storage equipment, introductory exercise classes for adults, gentle exercise classes for elderly residents, new crafts and games material for the local library, an eco communal garden for Throston Primary School and a series of summer activities for children aged 5-11 years old.

Karen Oliver (Neighbourhood Manager)

West View / King Oswy Annual Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP)
Report (April 2009 – March 2010)

Section 1

Name of Partnership, contact details, budget allocation, and supporting evidence sources:

Name of Partnership:	West View / King Oswy Forum
Name of Partnership Chair:	Tom Rooke
Name of Partnership Vice Chair:	Vacant
Contact Officer:	Karen Oliver (Hartlepool Borough Council's North Neighbourhood Manager)
Contact Telephone Number:	01429 523680
Contact Email Address:	karen.oliver@hartlepool.gov.uk
Budget Allocation for 2009/10:	Neighbourhood Element: £30,200 WNF: £28,600
Supporting Evidence Sources 2009/10	Ipsos MORI Household Survey 2008 Ipsos MORI Household Survey 2006 Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit Data

Section 2

Brief description of NAP Area and Neighbourhood Partnership

<p>The West View / King Oswy Forum was established in late 2006, after the development of the North Hartlepool Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) encompassing the Central, Headland and West View / King Oswy neighbourhoods. The neighbourhood is situated to the north of Hartlepool town centre, in the Brus ward. There is a resident population of approximately 7070 people living in 3195 households (JSU, 2008).</p> <p>The West View / King Oswy Forum is a proactive partnership that benefits from the attendance of a number of residents who give up their time to meet with key partners on a monthly basis, and the Chair being actively involved in a sub group of the Forum to inform and monitor the development of the North NAPs Employment Project. The average attendance of Forum meetings by</p>
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residents is 7.

Satisfaction levels have increased in the North Hartlepool area, rising from 74% in 2004 to 87% in 2008; of which, the latest figure correlates with the Borough wide and National averages. This demonstrates that the work of the Forum and devolved budgets are contributing to the regeneration of the neighbourhood. Feelings of influence in decision making is also currently similar to the Borough wide average at 22%, however this has decreased since 2006 (34%).

Section 3

Direction of travel: Any notable progress made against outcomes including local residents' perception of change/gaps to be addressed

The Ipsos MORI Household Survey suggests that satisfaction levels have increased in the North Hartlepool area rising from 74% in 2004 to 87% in 2008, which is in line with the Borough wide and National averages. Further to this, a large proportion of people in the North Hartlepool area (89%) feel that their quality of life is good or very good, which also equates with Borough and National averages, and has shown a slight upwards trend since 2006.

However the resident population of the North Hartlepool area continue to suffer from high levels of unemployment (48% of people are classed as economically inactive) and are in receipt of low incomes with the majority of people (29%) living on between £100 and £200 per week. Levels of smoking and those suffering with anxiety, nerves, depression and stress remain 7% above the Borough wide averages of 30% and 20% respectively.

The NAP engages a small number of the population, which is only representative of one section of the NAP area. Consequently there is an identifiable gap in the information and at the end of 2009/2010, some initial targeted survey work in under represented areas and in key locations such as King Oswy Shops, and Walk Audits were commissioned.

The Ipsos MORI Household Survey 2010 is due to be published in Autumn 2010 providing a detailed neighbourhood analysis of the NAP areas. This data will be used to determine any change in key areas in comparison to previous surveys conducted, but will also help further shape the Forum's priorities for the forthcoming year.

Section 4

Action Plan 2009/10 – focus of activity/ achievements/outputs during 2009/10 and linkage to outcomes - include factors affecting/impacting on performance eg match funding and relationships with partners – possible case study

Services commissioned by the Forum in 2009/2010 included committing the entirety of their WNF budget (£28,600) alongside the other North NAP Forums (Central, Dyke House / Stranton / Grange and Headland) to commission the Opening Doors and Widen Your Horizons Projects to tackle unemployment and address access to training in the North area. The Chair of the Forum attends the project Steering Group and has been instrumental in the tendering process, interviewing project sponsors and once commissioned, monitoring project development on the Forum's behalf.

Other key initiatives have included; tackling high levels of teenage pregnancy in the West View / King Oswy area by commissioning Headland Future to deliver the Young Fathers Support and Sexual Health Drop in Project and supporting the weekly session of the Hartlepool Families First Health Bus (which includes a sexual health and condom distribution service) in the south of the NAP area. In addition to this, the North Neighbourhood Manager met with Hartlepool PCT's Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator and produced a report on the Forum's behalf to be distributed to all key partners. A spring Health Event also took place at St Hild's Church of England Voluntary Aided School in March 2010, facilitated by the North Neighbourhood Development Officer (NDO); this event allowed a number of agencies to publicise their services whilst also consulting with local residents on their health requirements.

In line with their chosen theme of the Community Safety, the Forum supported a weekly session of the COOL Project at St John Vianney RC School to provide diversionary activities for young people, and also continue to implement a number of environmental projects aimed at improving satisfaction with the area including; tackling the long standing parking problem in Rogeri Place by match funding the provision of a parking lay by, facilitated the continuance of the successful beautification project by supporting the purchase and installation of pedestrian baskets on Powlett Roundabout, and addressing the safety of pedestrians on Easington Road by removing the ground and raised shrub beds.

Although not directly funded by the West View / King Oswy Forum, a number of projects have been delivered by working in conjunction with key partners including;

- Funding secured from the Home Office, SCRAP (HBC's Capital Projects Budget) and Safer Stronger Communities Fund for environmental, security and aesthetic improvements to King Oswy Shops.
- The North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum contributed to the North Tree Strategy which had previously been supported in 2008/2009 by the West View / King Oswy Forum (and other NAP Forums in the North including Central, Dyke House / Stranton / Grange and Headland). A number of trees were planted across the NAP areas as a result of funding secured.
- HBC's Adult Education Co-ordinator carried out a household survey, inclusive of NAP priorities to determine the needs of local people, and

what barriers they face in accessing adult education courses and / or training.

- Consultation to commence the double yellow lines on King Oswy Drive started in April 2010.
- A bus lay by on West View Road will be completed in 2011/2012.
- The feasibility of a bus shelter on King Oswy Drive (outside St John Vianney RC Church) is currently being explored by HBC's Public Transport Co-ordinator in response to concerns raised by the Forum.
- Work has commenced on a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the North.
- A bus lay by on West View Road will be completed in 2011/2012.
- Pride in Hartlepool delivered a campaign to local schools educating them in issues around litter and dog fouling. This is in addition to a mapping exercise that has been conducted, and a specific project delivered by HBC's Environmental Team focusing on King Oswy Shops and King Oswy Drive (in response to the concerns of the Forum) including the provision of larger litter bins and a publicity campaign.
- Recruitment of two Community Development Trainees for the North through Future Jobs Fund.
- Home Housing planted trees and cleared the land affected by demolition in Miers Avenue in Spring 2010 in response to concerns of the Forum.

Key outputs delivered in 2009/10 by the West View / King Oswy Forum include:

- North NAPs Employment Project: £67,300 through the Central, Dyke House / Stranton / Grange and Headland Forums.
- 20 young people improving their skills through the COOL Project.
- 4 young men receiving intensive support through the Young Fathers Project.
- 69 people accessing sexual health advice and guidance services through the Sexual Health Drop in and Hartlepool Families First Health Bus.
- 70 people received health related services information by attending the Spring Health Event.
- 88 people accessing health services through Hartlepool Families First Health Bus.

Match Funding / Leverage in 2009/2010: **approximately £225,000**

- £10,000 Home Office funding for the North Youth Forum.
- £70,000 from the Central, Dyke House / Stranton / Grange and Headland Forums towards the North NAPs Employment Project.
- NHS Hartlepool has mainstreamed the weekly provision of the Hartlepool Families First at King Oswy Shops after the Forum funded this service in 2008/2009: £6,000.
- Funding secured from the Home Office, SCRAP (HBC's Capital Projects Budget) and Safer Stronger Communities Fund for environmental, security and aesthetic improvements to King Oswy Shops: £31,450. This is exclusive of in kind support provided by the ILM Team for painting work.
- Minor Works: a total of £87,000 for the North area of the town, including £8,400 specifically towards the Ridlington Way Parking Improvement

- Scheme and a contribution towards the North Tree Strategy.
- Playbuilder Scheme: £84,000 through the development of the King Oswy Drive Play Area and King George Playing Fields that service the NAP area.
- £18,000 Local Transport Plan (LTP) towards the Rogeri Place Car Parking Improvement Scheme.

Section 5

Challenges/Areas for improvement 2010/11

The following areas will key priorities for improvement in 2010/2011:

- **Unemployment / Training:** the West View / King Oswy Forum have recognised annually that this is a key issue that requires addressing on a long term basis. During 2010/2011, the North NAPs Employment Project will be evaluated and it is anticipated that the Forum will continue to financially support the project whilst also investigating other options to ensure its sustainability, post WNF funding.
- **Health Inequalities:** a number of successful targeted projects have been commissioned by the Forum in order to try and tackle high levels of teenage pregnancy. The Forum will need to continue to build on their working relationships with mainstream providers such as NHS Hartlepool and local schools in order to achieve the desired outcome of improving existing, and implementing further sexual health education programmes.
- **Community Involvement / Facilities:** the Forum have identified that there is a clear need to make more efficient and effective use of community resources such as buildings and schools and will continue to pursue the concept of a community hub.
- **North Youth Forum:** the North Neighbourhood Development Officer (NDO) is supporting the development of a North Youth Forum in conjunction with key partners including the voluntary sector. Further funding has been secured, and the Forum is keen to establish links with the group.
- **Community Engagement:** the West View / King Oswy Forum recognise the need to continue to engage with local residents, including those who are from parts of the NAP area that are not currently represented. Methods including targeted survey work and walk audits will be explored in 2010/2011.
- **Role of the Forum:** the Forum have identified that working with service providers in order to influence service delivery is crucial, especially in areas that require longer term change to narrow the gap, including Jobs and the Economy and Health and Wellbeing.

Where relevant, the above areas will link with key partners' service planning process, and the Forum will seek to work in conjunction with service providers to achieve this.

_____ Signed by Tom Rooke (Chair)

Big Society learning network: 2010-2011

The learning network

This new learning network from LGiU will give policy makers and practitioners from councils around the country the opportunity to work through the concept, issues and tensions of the Big Society with a group of peers, in order to prepare their council and communities to take the lead in today's key political agenda.

The network will include four roundtable events, which will cover:

Roundtable 1: The Big Society basics

As an introduction to the Big Society, this session will look at what the Big Society means, how it has emerged and how it is different to previous government's attempts to 'empower' citizens. We will look at the forthcoming Decentralisation and Localism Bill – what it will contain and how it will have an impact on local government, the third sector and communities. We will also use this session to look at emerging models, such as cooperatives and mutuals and to consider the role of elected members in the Big Society, particularly, how they can engage with this agenda.

Roundtable 2: Accountability and the Big Society

Scrutiny is vital to the democratic process and a key part of ensuring that service delivery meets community needs. But as service delivery becomes more fragmentary and increasingly delivered by a range of local actors, what will happen to scrutiny in the Big Society? Session 2 will consider who will scrutinise the work of community groups and voluntary organisations in local service delivery; what the involvement of councillors will be and how will it sit alongside the scrutiny mechanisms that already exist. We will also explore the role of the Big Society itself in the scrutiny process.

Roundtable 3: Localism Vs strategic planning

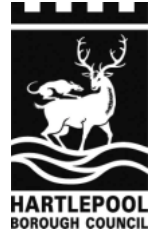
Place Based Budgeting and Community Budgets are being advocated by the government as a means to join together budgets and service delivery at the strategic level, in order to make efficiencies and improve services. Yet, the approaches of the Big Society are essentially fragmentary and advocate a bottom-up approach to service planning and delivery. This session will look at these issues and examine whether the two differing approaches can work together.

Roundtable 4: Capacity building

In order for community groups to take on greater roles and responsibilities in service design and delivery, they are going to need a range of skills and expertise. The final roundtable session will tie together themes from the previous roundtables and consider what skills and expertise community groups will require, and the role of councils and councillors in developing these.

COMMUNITY AND SAFETY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder
19 NOVEMBER 2010



Report of: Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)

Subject: PROGRESS REPORT – GROUNDWORK
NORTH EAST

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

In January 2010 Hartlepool Borough Council became a Company Member of Groundwork North East. Cabinet requested update reports on this partnership arrangement and this report is the first of such updates and informs the Portfolio Holder on performance activities and work carried out by Groundwork North East since we entered into the agreement.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report provides details on planned and achieved schemes across the Borough by Groundwork.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

Portfolio Holder is currently a member of the Tees Valley sub advisory board for Groundwork North East.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non Key

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Portfolio on 19 November 2010.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

For information.

Report of: Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)

Subject: PROGRESS REPORT – GROUNDWORK
NORTH EAST

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 In January 2010 Hartlepool Borough Council became a Company Member of Groundwork North East. Cabinet requested update reports on this partnership arrangement and this report is the first of such updates and informs the Portfolio Holder on performance activities and work carried out by Groundwork North East since we entered into the agreement

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Groundwork is a leading Federation of Charitable Trusts delivering environmental, social and economic regeneration in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Each Groundwork Trust works with their partners to improve the quality of the local environment, the lives of local people and the success of local businesses in areas in need of investment and support.

2.2 Each Groundwork is a partnership between the public, private and voluntary sectors with its own Board of Trustees. The work of the Trusts is supported by the national and regional offices of Groundwork UK. Groundwork works alongside communities, public bodies, private companies and other voluntary sector organisations to deliver programmes that bring about concurrent social, economic and environmental benefits.

2.3 In the North East Groundwork is active in all sub regions of County Durham, Northumberland, Tees Valley and Tyne and Wear. Groundwork began working in the North East in 1986 in County Durham and on average now delivers over 600 projects across all four sub regions. July 2009 saw the merger of established Trusts in East Durham, West Durham, South Tees and Northumberland to form Groundwork North East. This merger into one large regional trust with a turnover in excess of £15m provides new opportunities for partners to influence and direct Groundwork activities at regional and national level.

2.4 Groundwork projects aim to deliver benefits:

- For People: Creating opportunities for people to learn new skills and become more active citizens.
- For Places: Delivering environmental improvements that create cleaner, safer and greener neighbourhoods.
- For Prosperity: Helping businesses and individuals fulfil their potential.

3. GROUNDWORK IN HARTLEPOOL

3.1 The Portfolio Holder is a member of the Groundwork Tees Valley Sub-Advisory Board together with the Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services).

3.2 An Officer Steering Group made up of Council officers with representatives from other key organisations, chaired by the Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) has been established. The group has three main functions:

- (i) Shape the overall programme of work and the strategic direction that is developed in Hartlepool.
- (ii) To identify projects to be developed and consider projects brought forward by other organisations or individuals in the community
- (iii) Bring forward individual expertise for the development of projects and to ensure there is no duplication with other planned projects/ initiatives within Hartlepool.

3.3 The key principle of how Groundwork North East works in Hartlepool is to add value to what is already happening, work closely with the local community, voluntary and public sector and not duplicate work which is already taking place.

3.4 As part of the agreement, Groundwork has contributed £30,000 this financial year and aims to source other external funds for projects. In return the Council provides accommodation for the programme co-ordinator within HBC Parks and Countryside section.

3.5 The funding from Groundwork supports the full time Programme Coordinator to develop the programme in Hartlepool, who in turn is supported by the Groundwork Operations Manager for Hartlepool and Darlington.

3.6 Groundwork representatives are actively involved in a number of partnerships within the Borough including the Play Partnership, Community Activity Network, Environment Partnership and Pride in your Neighbourhood Awards planning group.

4. PROGRESS TO DATE

4.1 The Hartlepool Groundwork programme has to date focused on environmental regeneration of local communities in areas of need. However they have the skills and resources to work under five thematic headings;

- Land and Neighbourhoods
- Children and Young People
- Green Economy
- Health and Wellbeing
- Employment, Skills and Training.

4.2 As previously mentioned, initially the focus of work in Hartlepool has primarily been around the development and delivery of capital based projects under the Land and Neighbourhood theme including e.g.

- Thorpe Street garden and arches
- Jutland Road Play Area Improvements
- Middleton Road Estate Appraisal and Improvements
- Summerhill Park Interpretation Panels

4.3 In addition Groundwork has delivered the GreenStart project (an environmental education for children aged 0-5 years and their families) with Children and Adult Services for the past two years. This is 50% funded by Groundwork.

4.4 The Borough Council also benefits from a number of regional and sub regional projects including Cadbury's Spots vs Stripes initiative, Green Communities project and the Green Exercise North East (GENE) project.

4.5 Through securing funding regionally and nationally for specific initiatives Groundwork is able to deliver projects locally which in many cases is provided free to the Council and other partnering organisations.

4.6 Examples of the projects currently being developed include:

- Edgar Street Improvements
- Thornton Street Gardens Improvements
- Central Estate Community Garden
- Burbank Commemorative Garden (Due to start on site w/c 25th October 2010)

4.7 Future opportunities for Groundwork are being investigated. These include:

- Supporting the Council around establishing self management groups for allotment associations.
- Supporting the establishment of 'Friends of Seaton Park' group and helping them to identify potential improvement/ projects to enhance the area
- Supporting the Waverley Terrace Allotment Steering Group
- Expanding the Environmental Business Service team's training and consultancy to public, private and voluntary organisations.
- Supporting Housing Hartlepool around their sustainability agenda.

4.8 In the first six months of 2010/11 Groundwork has secured, or supported the local communities to secure £61,000 of external funding towards projects across the borough. A further funding bid for Central Estate Community Garden is in the final stages of assessment and if successful would bring this total to £111,000). **Appendix 1** provides more detail on specific projects and activities with respect to their current position.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The Portfolio comments on the content of the report and notes the report for information.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Cabinet January 2010

7. CONTACT OFFICER

Denise Odgen
Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)
Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department
Hartlepool Borough Council
Civic Centre
Hartlepool

Telephone: (01429) 523201

Email: Denise.Ogden@hartlepool.gov.uk

POTENTIAL LINKS	DETAILS	UPDATES
GREEN DOCTOR	WORK WITH SOCIAL HOUSING ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER PARTNERS TO IMPROVE HOUSEHOLD ENERGY EFFICIENCY THROUGH ADVICE AND SMALL SCALE PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENTS	INITIAL LINKS WITH HH SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER
LINKS WITH WAVERLEY TERRACE ALLOTMENTS	LR MET WITH DARREN HUTCHINSON TO DISCUSS SUPPORTING THE PROJECT IN TERMS OF FURTHER CAPITAL DEVELOPMENTS AND REVENUE SUPPORT	BRIEF FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY/STRATEGY FOR SITE CREATED GOING TO STEERING GROUP FOR APPROVAL 27.09.10
GREEN EXERCISE	POTENTIAL TO WORK WITH HEALTH PARTNERS TO DELIVER GREEN EXERCISE INITIATIVES.	MET PCT. UPDATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS. HAVE SUPPORTED TWO COMMUNITY EVENTS TO DATE
TREE PLANTING IN NORTHERN AREA	FUTURE WORK WITH MARTIN SPALDIN FOLLOWING UP WORK DONE TO DEVELOP APPLICATIONS	
LINEAR PARK	LINKS TO GI OFFICER	MEETING WITH OFFICERS 27.09.10
GREEN COMMUNITIES COORDINATOR	POTENTIAL TO WORK WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS TO IMPROVE ENERGY AND WASTE EFFICIENCY	PRESENTATION AT HVDA EVENT. INTEREST WITH HOUSING HARTLEPOOL
ALLOTMENTS	POTENTIAL TO SUPPORT AUTHORITY DELIVER ELEMENTS OF STRATEGY ESPECIALLY AROUND SELF MANAGEMENT	MET KMC. OFFERED TO PRESENT TO ASSOCIATION- AWAITING A DATE
GREEN TEAMS LINKS	MET WITH SUE WILLIAMS TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL LINKS.	
FRIENDS OF SEATON PARK	SUPPORTED COUNCILLOR FORM FRIENDS OF PARK GROUP- NEXT MEETING 5TH OCT.	
HOMEGROUP- LIDDLE COURT	POTENTIAL LANDSCAPE PROJECT ON DERELICT LAND	MET WITH CLIENT 22 SEPT

GROUNDWORK TEES VALLEY (HARTLEPOOL)
LIVE PROJECTS REPORT - updated 21.09.10 LR

PROJ NO	PROJECT NAME	WARD	PROJECT INFORMATION	EXPECTED PROJECT COST (£1000's)	FUNDING SOURCES	UPDATE	PROJECT STATUS
TV0016	HARTLEPOOL ROVERS- GREEN GYM	ST HILDS	THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN UNUSED SPACE ADJACENT TO THE CURRENT PITCH. THE AREA NEEDS TO INCORPORATE A TRAINING SPACE FOR THE TEAMS, AS WELL AS PROVIDING SOME COMMUNITY FACILITY	40/		LINKS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH VARIOUS HBC DEPARTMENTS. PROJECT HAS BEEN TABLED AT CENTRAL MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION MEETINGS. INFORMATION HAS BEEN PASSED BACK TO THE GROUP TO DECIDE HOW THEY WANT TO PROCEED	DEVELOPMENT
TV0018	BURBANK COMMEMORATIVE GARDEN	STRANTON WARD	TO DEVELOP AN AREA OF PUBLIC SPACE WHERE THE COMMUNITY CAN GO TO RELAX, REFLECT AND LEARN ABOUT ELEMENTS OF THEIR LOCAL HERITAGE	50	COMMUNITY SPACES- PHASE 2 APPLICATION DUE IN END OF MARCH	START ONSITE W/C 25TH OCT. WORKING TO DESIGN INTERPRETATION	DELIVERY
TV038H	THORNTON STREET IMPROVEMENTS	STRANTON WARD	TO DESIGN ENHANCEMENTS FOR A RECENTLY DEVELOPED POCKET PARK	2.7 FOR DEVELOPMENT/ IMPLEMENTATION 20 (ISH)	INITIAL 2.7K FROM NDC BEAUTIFICATION POT	MONEY SECURED. OPTIONS DRAWN UP AND PASSED BY OFFICERS- COMMUNITY MEETING IN OCTOBER	DELIVERY
TV039H	EDGAR STREET	STRANTON WARD	TO ENHANCE A STREETScape BY CELEBRATING THE VICTORIAN HERITAGE	2.5 FOR FEASIBILITY	INITIAL 2.5K FROM NDC BEAUTIFICATION POT	CONCEPTS/ INITIAL IDEAS DEVELOPED.TD ARRANGING COMMUNITY MEETING	DEVELOPMENT
G1268	MIDDLETON ROAD- IMPLEMENTATION	DYKE HOUSE WARD	TO IMPLEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS SUGGESTED IN AN ESTATE APPRAISAL	250	HOUSING HARTLEPOOL	PROJECT COMPLETED.	COMPLETE
G1274	JUTLAND ROAD	ROSSMERE WARD	TO ENHANCE A SITE THROUGH INNOVATIVE PLAY AND LANDSCAPING	90	PLAYBUILDER, MAYOR CONTRIBUTION,S106, HBC, SOUTHERN JOINT ACTION GROUP	SCHEME COMPLETE. EVALUATION TO FOLLOW VIA A FUN EVENT -30TH SEPT	COMPLETE
G1288	CENTRAL ESTATE GARDEN	ST HILD'S WARD	TO CREATE A COMMUNITY GARDEN, TO COMPLIMENT A NEW CAFÉ DEVELOPMENT, ADJACENT TO A SURESTART BUILDING. THE AREA WILL CONTAIN ELEMENTS OF PLAY, PLANTING GROW YOUR OWN ETC.	73	COMMUNITY SPACES? HBC CONTRIBUTION, HOUSING HARTLEPOOL, NAP MONEY	CONFIRMATION OF SECTION 17 AND PRIDE IN HARTLEPOOL FUNDING. COMMUNITY SPACES PHASE 2 SUBMITTED W/C 12.07.10. DECISION IMMINENT	FUNDRAISING
G1337	SPION KOP CEMETERY	ST HILD'S WARD	TO ENHANCE THE CEMETERY AND NATURE RESERVE, WHICH SITS ON THE PROPOSED LINEAR PARK	?	2.5K PDF ALLOCATED	NO UPDATE	DEVELOPMENT
NE1 N30	GREENSTART	ROSSMERE	TO WORK WITH A SURESTART CENTRE TO ENGAGE 0-5 YEAR OLDS AND THEIR FAMILIES; RAISING AWARENESS AND ENJOYMENT OF THEIR LOCAL OUTDOOR SPACES AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	9	LOTTERY, HBC	CURRENTLY DELIVERING IN RIFT HOUSE CHILDREN'S CENTRE AND ROSSMERE CHILDREN'S CENTRE.28 SESSIONS DELIVERED TO DATE PLUS THREE TRAINING SESSIONS FOR STAFF	DELIVERY
TV054	PHOENIX PLAYBUILDER	ST HILD'S WARD	CREATION OF PLAY SPACE AIMED TOWARDS 8-13 YEAR OLDS	46	PLAYBUILDER HBC	SITE VISITS AND DESIGN WORK BEGUN. PROJECT ON HOLD AWAITING DECISION FROM DoE	DELIVERY
TV055	OWTON MANOR PLAYBUILDER	OWTON	CREATION OF PLAY SPACE AIMED TOWARDS 8-13 YEAR OLDS	46	PLAYBUILDER HBC	SITE VISITS AND DESIGN WORK BEGUN. PROJECT ON HOLD AWAITING DECISION FROM DoE	DELIVERY

TV057	SPOTS VS STRIPES	ALL	DELIVERY OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND GAMES. 100K ACROSS THE TEES VALLEY. PROJECT UNTIL NOV 2012	7 (2010-2011)	CADBURY VIA GWK UK	3 EVENTS SUPPORTED IN HARTLEPOOL.. TWO PLANNED FOR NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS. APPROACHES MADE TO HVDA AND PRINCE'S TRUST REGARDING VOLUNTEERS	DELIVERY
	FOREST SCHOOLS INITIATIVE	HART WARD	RAISING AWARENESS OF SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY AND THE PRODUCTION AND USES OF TIMBER.DEV APPLICATION FOR A FOREST SCHOOL PROGRAMME		20 ACCESS TO NATURE		FUNDRAISING
	GREEN EXERCISE PROJECT	/	INVESTIGATION WITH SUSAN MCBRIDE INTO POTENTIAL GREEN EXERCISE AND COOKERY PROJECT		SMcB SUBMITTING APPLICATION TO PCT - DEADLINE AUG	GREEN EXERCISE PROJECT HAS SUPPORTED TWO FUN DAYS-RIFT HOUSE AND LYNNFIELD. MEETING TD AND RESIDENT TO DISCUSS DELIVERY IN NDC AREA	FUNDRAISING
	HERITAGE COORDINATOR	VARIOUS	PROPOSAL TO ENGLISH HERITAGE TO SUPPORT NEW POST TO COORDINATE THE DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROGRAMME OF HERITAGE REGENERATION ACTIVITY ACROSS THE TEES VALLEY.	INITIAL THREE YEAR £190K	ENGLISH HERITAGE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE?	PETER GRAVES SUBMITTED REPORT TO PORTFOLIO TO INFORM MEMBERS. BUSINESS PLAN BEING DEVELOPED FOR PART TIME POST AS FEELING IT WAS MORE REALISTIC ON THE BASIS OF SECURING MATCH FUNDING REQUIRED. DISCUSSIONS TAKING PLACE WITH ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE RE: POTENTIAL MATCH. INVESTIGATING ENGLISH HERITAGE'S FUTURE STATUS REGARDING FUNDING IN FUTURE. PG LIAISING WITH CONSERVATION OFFICERS ACROSS TEES VALLEY TO PUT TOGETHER LIST OF PROJECTS.	DEVELOPMENT