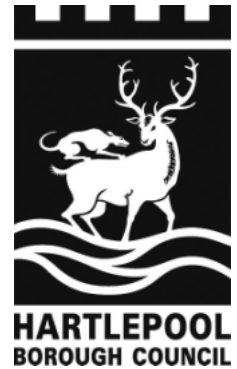


REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Thursday, 14 October 2010

at 3.00 pm

in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:

Councillors Barclay, Cook, Cranney, Gibbon, James, A Lilley, London, Rogan and Wells

Resident Representatives:

Ted Jackson, John Maxwell and Angie Wilcox

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 3. MINUTES**
 - 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2010
- 4. RESPONSES FROM THE COUNCIL, THE EXECUTIVE OR COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL TO FINAL REPORTS OF THIS FORUM**

No items.
- 5. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS REFERRED VIA SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE**

No items.

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

No items

7. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Scrutiny Investigation into 'Working Neighbourhoods Fund'

7.1 Evidence from the Authority's Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development

- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
- (b) Verbal evidence from the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development

7.2 Evidence from Voluntary Organisations

- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
- (b) Presentation from representatives of the Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency (HVDA)
- (c) Evidence from local service providers and service users

8. **ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN**

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

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 4 November 2010 at 3.00 pm in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

9 September 2010

The meeting commenced at 3.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Kevin Cranney (In the Chair)

Councillors: Allan Barclay, Rob Cook, Steve Gibbon, Marjorie James, Frances London, Trevor Rogan and Ray Wells

Resident Representatives:

Ted Jackson and John Maxwell

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2 (ii), Councillor Geoff Lilley was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Alison Lilley.

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Damien Wilson, Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning
Antony Steinberg, Economic Development Manager
Patrick Wilson, Employment Development Officer
Elaine Hind, Scrutiny Support Officer
James Walsh, Scrutiny Support Officer
Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

Also present:

Carl Crossman, Wharton Trust

20. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alison Lilley.

21. Declarations of interest by Members

The following Councillors declared a personal interest in minute number 26: Councillors Allan Barclay, Rob Cook, Kevin Cranney, Marjorie James, Trevor Rogan and Ray Wells.

22. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 August 2010

Confirmed.

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

None.

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

The Chair informed Members that a request from Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee had been received to review item RN 34/10 from the Forward Plan: Housing Adaptations Policy for 2010-2013. It was noted that this issue was cross-cutting across the Adult and Community Services, Children's Services and this Scrutiny Forum and it was suggested that an additional joint meeting be arranged to enable full consideration of this review to take place.

It was agreed that an additional joint meeting would be scheduled and a letter would be circulated to Members confirming the date, time and venue.

Recommended

That a joint meeting of the Adult and Community Services, Children's Services and Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forums be scheduled to consider the referral from Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on the Housing Adaptations Policy for 2010-2013 and details confirmed in writing to Members.

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

None.

26. Scrutiny Investigation into 'Working Neighbourhoods Fund' – Setting the Scene *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The report set the scene for the Forum's investigation into the Working Neighbourhoods Fund in Hartlepool. The report outlined the Working Neighbourhoods Fund, its programmes, achievements and the areas of the town and groups it covered.

In addition, the Economic Development Manager and Employment Development Officer provided a detailed and comprehensive presentation which included the following issues:-

- Reductions in Area Based Grant (ABG)
- Areas covered by WNF Programmes and the challenges faced within

these areas

- The link and outputs achieved for Jobs and the Economy theme from the Community Strategy
- Priorities for funding
- Allocations to the voluntary and community sector
- Links to other relevant initiatives and funding
- Opportunities for the future
- Independent evaluation of WNF
- Case Studies
- Conclusion

A discussion ensued which included the following issues.

- (i) A Member questioned when the actual WNF outputs achieved for the Jobs and Economy theme would be available for the first quarter of 2010/2011. The Employment Development Officer confirmed that unfortunately the detail was not available at the time of the report being printed for this meeting but that information was available now if required.
- (ii) An individual case study was referred to which had enabled a young man to progress through the Future Jobs Programme and had resulted in him living independently, running his own affairs and considering self employment. This highlighted that opportunities for young people to gain employment through programmes such as the Future Jobs Fund, with the appropriate support in place, had proven successful.
- (iii) In response to a question from a Member, the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods commented that Hartlepool was the only district in the region working towards a replacement for the WNF being established. This was based on the fact that budgets would include some of the former WNF and Area Based Grants (ABG) funding and would be unringfenced to enable Council's to decide what areas were funded.
- (iv) The report referred to WNF providers becoming sub-contractors with large scale prime providers and a Member questioned how this was being progressed. The Economic Development Manager confirmed there would be a series of activities looking at this and there were already well established links and good partnerships in place with the current providers. Discussions had already taken place with potential prime providers and this would be an ongoing process.
- (v) A Member commented that the Voluntary and Community Sector had a track record in achieving match funding for projects and it was suggested that once the Comprehensive Spending Review was announced, additional support be provided to this sector to ensure that applications for match funding were maximised to boost the grant aid for the town wherever achievable. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods confirmed that it would be early in 2011 before the detailed information on the budgets would be available.
- (vi) The number of jobs that were potentially at risk through the withdrawal of WNF was questioned. The Employment Development Officer estimated that around 60-70 jobs were at risk across the WN projects.

However, this number needed to be substantiated as the Development Officer was not convinced that all of the WNF providers had been clear about the actual jobs that may be affected. This was currently being reviewed.

- (vii) A Member sought clarification on how value for money was determined against each project. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods commented that it was difficult to quantify value for money across this programme as the affects could range from supporting a disabled person, unemployed for 10 years to gain employment as a result of this programme against someone made redundant and in a new job after only 3 months. The Economic Development Manager added that a calculation had been done which indicated that someone who was long term economically inactive would cost around £72k.
- (viii) The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services commented that Members should be mindful that the Economic Development Team had a proven track record of achieving funding from many different areas over the years. He added that the Tees Valley Local Enterprise Partnership submission was one of the first to be submitted and should result in funding being made available as a recent Government survey had highlighted Hartlepool, Redcar and Middlesbrough as the three worse towns to be affected by the recession.
- (ix) A Member commented that although it was acknowledged that Hartlepool did lead the way in relation to the workless agenda, it had been said that there was a lot of duplication across the many organisations/providers within the town. The Economic Development Manager confirmed that as part of the current review of budgets, the Corporate Management Team had requested that a range of programmes were examined, especially in relation to duplication with a suggestion of organisations coming together to reduce overheads, possibly through the merging of back office functions or simply sharing a building. As part of this review, organisations were being asked to show what they had done to ensure that the future of their organisation was sustainable.
- (x) In response to a question from a Member, the Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning) confirmed that since his recent appointment, the reception from organisations and people both within and outside the Council had been very enthusiastic with a spirit of co-operation and willingness and despite the current economic climate, he felt that Hartlepool had a lot to be positive about.

Members were asked to note that a number of people from other organisations had expressed an interest in participating in this enquiry and the town's MP; Iain Wright would be making a written submission. In addition, it was noted that the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development would be in attendance on 14 October 2010 to participate in this enquiry also.

Recommended

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

27. Six Monthly Monitoring of Agreed Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's Recommendations *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

Details of progress made on the delivery of the agreed scrutiny recommendations against investigations undertaken by the Forum since the 2005/06 municipal year were presented to Members. The report included a chart which provided the overall progress made by all scrutiny forums since 2005 and Appendix A provided a detailed explanation of progress made against each recommendation agreed by this Forum.

It was noted that since the 2005/06 municipal year, 85% of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's recommendations had been completed with 7% assigned and 8% overdue.

Members were requested to retain the plastic wallet folders provided to them enclosing the six monthly update report and were asked bring them to future meetings where progress reports were to be considered.

Recommended

- i) The progress against the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum agreed recommendations since the 2005/06 municipal year were noted.
- ii) Members were requested to retain Appendix A contained within the plastic wallet distributed for future reference.

28. Any Other Business

The Chair notified the Forum that at the next meeting a photograph will be taken of Members of the Forum for inclusion within the Scrutiny Annual Report.

Meeting concluded at 4.30 pm

CHAIR

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

14 October 2010



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO WORKING
NEIGHBOURHOODS FUND - EVIDENCE FROM
THE AUTHORITY'S PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR
REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
– COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Forum that the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development has been invited to attend this meeting to provide evidence in relation to the ongoing investigation into the 'Working Neighbourhoods Fund'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 12 August 2010, the Terms of Reference and Potential Areas of Inquiry / Sources of Evidence were approved by the Forum for this scrutiny investigation into the 'Working Neighbourhoods Fund'.
- 2.2 Consequently, the Authority's Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development has been invited to this meeting to provide evidence to the Forum in relation to their views on the 'Working Neighbourhoods Fund'.
- 2.3 During this evidence gathering session with the Authority's Regeneration and Economic Development Portfolio Holder, it is suggested that responses should be sought to the key questions below:-
- (a) What are your views on the reduction and potential withdrawal of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund, and how do you think this will impact on the worklessness agenda in Hartlepool?

- (b) How effective do you feel the current provision of WNF services is with regard to the worklessness agenda?
- (c) What are your views on how services currently provided by the WNF could continue to be provided within the resources available in the current economic climate?
- (d) Do you have any views as to how current or future services can be delivered more effectively and efficiently?
- (e) Do you have any other views / information which you feel maybe useful to Members in forming their recommendations?

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Members of the Forum consider the views of the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development in relation to the questions outlined in section 2.3.

Contact Officer:- Elaine Hind – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523647
Email: elaine.hind@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer titled 'Scrutiny Investigation into 'Working Neighbourhoods Fund' – Scoping Report,' presented at the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum of 12 August 2010.

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

14 October 2010



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO THE 'WORKING NEIGHBOURHOODS FUND' – EVIDENCE FROM VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS – COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Forum that Voluntary Sector Organisations have been invited to attend this meeting to give evidence in relation to the ongoing investigation into the 'Working Neighbourhoods Fund'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 12 August 2010, the Terms of Reference and Potential Areas of Inquiry / Sources of Evidence for this scrutiny investigation were approved by the Forum.
- 2.2 Consequently, representatives from Voluntary Sector Organisations that use the Working Neighbourhoods Fund to provide services have been invited to attend this meeting to discuss their views on the reduction and potential withdrawal of the fund and its impact on the worklessness agenda.
- 2.3 During this evidence gathering session with Voluntary Sector Organisations, it is suggested that responses should be sought to the key questions below:-
- (a) What are your views on the reduction and potential withdrawal of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund, and how will this impact on your ability to provide services?
 - (b) How effective do you feel the services provided by the WNF are in helping Hartlepool residents get back into work?

- (c) What are your views on how services currently funded by the Working Neighbourhoods Fund could continue to be provided should no further direct funding become available?
- (d) What steps has your organisation put in place to deal with the potential loss of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund?
- (e) Do you have any other views / information which you feel maybe useful to Members in forming their recommendations?

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum consider the views of the Voluntary Sector Organisations in relation to the evidence provided and the questions outlined in section 2.3.

Contact Officer:- Elaine Hind – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive's Department – Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council

Tel: 01429 523647
Email: elaine.hind@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer titled 'Scrutiny Investigation into 'Working Neighbourhoods Fund' – Scoping Report,' presented at the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum of 12 August 2010.



Hart Gables

Gaymes 2009/2010



Hart Gables was set up more than 10 years ago to support lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) people. It is a registered charity and remains the only organisation in Hartlepool that offers support for LGBT people.

The organisation is run by a Management Committee of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people living in and around Hartlepool, which is supported by advisors from a range of helpful local agencies.

Hart Gables provides a range of services for those questioning their sexuality or gender.

There is a regular mixed group and a group specifically for our transgender community.

There is a counselling service, and you can access trained listeners on the telephone or in one-to-one sessions at our base on South Road.

The main aims of Hart Gables are:



- ☞ To provide a regular safe space for the LGBT community
- ☞ To support the community in building social networks
- ☞ To build confidence of individuals in the community
- ☞ To provide access to sexual health information
- ☞ To provide a free, confidential, impartial & non-judgmental listening service
- ☞ To involve the community in the development of the organisation as much as possible
- ☞ To work with other LGBT organisations in the region & nationally
- ☞ To work with other outside individuals & agencies who support the values and aims of Hart Gables
- ☞ Hart Gables employs lesbian and gay workers who can offer training on a wide range of sexual health, equality and social inclusion issues. This can often be provided free or for a nominal fee to
- ☞ Voluntary and Community Sector groups and organisations, and reasonable fees for statutory sector organisations.

THE GAYMES 2009



The Gaymes 2009

This year over 150 people took part in The Gaymes which was held at Brierton Community Sports Centre on Sunday 6th September. Even though the weather was a very changeable, we had rain, wind and then a little bit of sunshine. Everyone that attended had a really good and fun time.

There was a range of activities including, alternative therapies such as, reflexology, massage, facials, eyebrow waxing and Indian massage. 30 people enjoyed one or more of these therapies. There were stilt walkers, bungee running, a bouncy castle and Mr Dan of Manhattan Heights. The disco also went down a real treat.





Overview of Funding

Gaymes 2009

The WNF funding was received in 2009 we used this money to promote and fund the annual "Gaymes" event which was in its third year. This event helps break down the barriers for the LGBT, (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) and brings the community together.

At the event in 2009 we highlighted "Hate Crime" raising awareness of homophobic/transphobic hate crimes. The gaymes was a good way of getting the message across to a diverse range of people who we may not often reach. We had people from Newcastle entering teams as well as the local youth service, police, community police and HVDA. This alone makes a great difference in breaking down the stigma of LGBT community.

The funding has enabled people to have better life chance through being able to get involved and becoming a volunteer at Hart Gables, we have 5 full time volunteers who have engaged in NVQ training. Jynx one of our younger service users has just completed his NVQ level 2 and is going on to business admin level 3, this has built confidence within himself and helped him deal better with his disability.

Without this funding we would find it hard to reach people like Jynx and to tap into other areas.

This year's event was a little different we worked in partnership with the Rift House Residents Association; I worked with Christopher Akers-belcher to create this family fun day. Hart Gables hosted "it's a knockout" competition and there were over 300 people at the event.

Hart Gables also offering a service in Stockton which is for LGBT 25's and over it's called "Choices" it is funded by Stockton PCT this project started in December and finishes December 2010.

Voluntary and Community Sector/HVDA contribution to WNF

KEITH BAYLEY

Manager

Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency



serving and developing the voluntary sector for Hartlepool

WNF Financial Information

	2009/10	2010/11
■ Total WNF Budget	£5,343,168	£5,645,049
■ Voluntary sector Split of WNF budget	£2,047,746	£2,152,258
■ % of WNF Budget for Voluntary Sector	38%	38%
■ Total WNF Jobs/Economy Theme Budget	£2,100,064	£2,218,141
■ Total Voluntary Sector split of Jobs/Economy Theme Budget	£832,265	£842,637
■ % Total Voluntary Sector split of Jobs/Economy Theme Budget	40%	38%

WNF outputs achieved for jobs & the economy theme (2009/2010) are attached as handouts



serving and developing the voluntary sector for Hartlepool

Voluntary and Community Sector WNF Projects in Hartlepool

- Homelessness Project – DISC
- Volunteering into Employment – HVDA
- Community Outreach Projects
- Local Employment Assistance – OFCA
- Financial Inclusion Project
- West View Project



serving and developing the voluntary sector for Hartlepool

Voluntary and Community Sector WNF Projects in Hartlepool cont.

- Adventure Traineeship- West View Project
- Introduction to Construction – Community Campus
- Career Coaching – HVDA
- NAP Residents Priorities
- FAST Project
- Active Skills – West View Project



serving and developing the voluntary sector for Hartlepool

Voluntary and Community Sector WNF Projects in Hartlepool cont.

- Connected Care – Manor residents
- Job Club – Owton Manor West Neighbourhood Watch and Residents Association
- Youth into Employment – Wharton Trust
- Carers into Training and Employment – Hartlepool Carers
- Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre



serving and developing the voluntary sector for Hartlepool

Voluntary and Community Sector WNF Projects in Hartlepool cont.

- Employment Support – Hartlepool Mind
- Community Chest – HVDA
- Community Empowerment Network – HVDA
- Mental Health Dev & NRF Support Network – Hartlepool Mind
- COOL Project



serving and developing the voluntary sector for Hartlepool

HVDA's work with Volunteers 2009/10

- 759 total volunteers supported
- Recruited 375 volunteers
- 255 were unemployed
- Of which 173 were long term unemployed
- And 49 declared a health issue



serving and developing the voluntary sector for Hartlepool

HVDA's work with Volunteers 2009/10 - Training

- 208 volunteers placed with 88 VCS groups
- 22 other volunteer using agencies
- 89 went on to undertake training
- 27 into NVQ level 2 or above
- 32 obtained verifiable sustainable paid employment
- 98% still in paid employment



serving and developing the voluntary sector for Hartlepool

HVDA's work with Volunteers 2009/10 - Coaching

- Career Coaching support to 42 individuals
- 98% increased self confidence
- 94% increased self awareness
- 98% more positive thinking
- 98% assisted personal development
- 82% undertook voluntary work
- 33% found employment



serving and developing the voluntary sector for Hartlepool

Community Network

- Engaging and supporting elected resident/VCS reps
- Supporting networks of those who are seldom heard
- Working with Theme Partnerships and NAP forum support
- Coordinating the voice of the VCS and supporting individual community groups

Community Chest 2009/10

- 154 awards made and distributed to Hartlepool VCS totalling £79,819.42
- 132 groups supported
- 34,017 local residents benefited
- 22,661 from WNF areas



serving and developing the voluntary sector for Hartlepool

Summary

- WNF provided £2,152,258 in 2010/11 to the VCS
- Impact of WNF services on local communities
- Outcomes of WNF against Council services