

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Wednesday 23rd March 2011

at 4.30 pm

**in Committee Room B,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

Councillors Barclay, Cook, Fleet, Flintoff, Gibbon, Griffin, McKenna, Richardson and Thomas.

Resident Representatives: John Cambridge, Brenda Loynes and Iris Ryder.

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 23rd February 2011

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

No items.

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

No items.

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

No items.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- 7.1 Six monthly Monitoring of agreed Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's Recommendations – *Scrutiny Manager*

Investigation into 'Foreshore Management':-

- 7.2 Additional Information requested at the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of 23 February 2011:-

- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Manager*;
- (b) Written evidence from Northumbrian Water (subject to availability); and
- (c) Written evidence from the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department: -
 - (i) Seaton Carew – Economic Growth - *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*
 - (ii) Foreshore Management Services – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*

8. ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN

9. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- i) **Date of Next Meeting Monday 11th April 2011, commencing at 4.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber**

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

23 FEBRUARY 2011

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

Present:

Councillor Stephen Thomas (In the Chair)

Councillors: Rob Cook, Mary Fleet, Sheila Griffin and Carl Richardson.

Resident Representatives: John Cambridge, Brenda Loynes and Iris Ryder.

Also Present: Councillor Mike Turner.

Dave Mitchell, Northumbrian Water

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Derek Gouldbum, Urban and Planning Policy Manager
Chris Wenlock, Parks and Countryside Manager
Peter Graves, Conservation Officer/Townscape Heritage
Initiative Manager
Debbie Kershaw, Quality and Safety Officer
Laura Starrs, Scrutiny Support Officer
David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer

57. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Barclay and Flintoff.

58. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

59. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2011

Confirmed.

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

No items.

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

No items.

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

No items.

63. Investigation into 'Foreshore Management' - Foreshore Management Services *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhood Services)*

The Director of Neighbourhood Services presented a report that focused on the core day-to-day foreshore management services undertaken by the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department. The Director outlined the background to the Beach Safety and Lifeguard service, the Paddling pools at the Headland and Seaton Carew, Various Rights, and Beach Cleaning. The Director also provided some insight into possible future delivery stances, and some basic cost/ benefit analysis of different budgetary responses.

The Director emphasised that foreshore management, like every other service area in the council, would be operating a reduced service due to budget cuts. Many options had been considered during the budget process and a number of these were set out in the report. The Beach Lifeguard Service had been examined for potential outsourcing. The Parks and Countryside section, which provides the Beach lifeguard service, were asked to examine the potential to reduce service cost as a result of 2011 budget pressures. A number of options were examined by Cabinet and the decision was taken, in light of previous year's experience of visitor demand, to start the lifeguards slightly later in the year. This decision allied with service efficiency savings reduced the budget for the lifeguard and ancillary services by £19,000. As long as appropriate signage is present notifying that no lifeguard cover was operating at the previous times early in the year, the 2011 lifeguard season would be operating over a slightly reduced period. The report set out details of the examination of the potential outsourcing of the Beach Lifeguard Service detailing why the service was to remain 'in-house'.

In relation to the paddling pools, the Director highlighted that these were very expensive facilities to operate. Changes had already been made to the management of the pools over recent years. Each pool had specific issues, though the Block Sands (Headland) pool was causing the most concern. The Block Sands Paddling Pool has a pool plant and was designed not to require emptying every day. It was initially thought that the pool water would stay in the pool for most of the season, relying on the pool chemical dosing and filtration system to ensure the water quality was suitable for use. It had

become apparent that the pumping/filtration system, although suitable for indoor swimming pools situations, has to cope with much more challenging conditions in relation to the Headland paddling pool.

Experience had shown that it is necessary during the season to empty, clean and refill this pool on a weekly basis to ensure water quality could be maintained by the pumping/ filtration system. The Headland pool is larger than the Seaton pool and it can up to take a day to complete this task.

An additional problem exists with the seawall/ defences upon which the Headland pool sits. The seawall is of variable makeup and considerable unseen movement of seawall materials can take place. Unfortunately such movement can cause the pool surface to blister and crack; as a consequence the pool requires regular emptying for surface checks and repairs to make it watertight. This maintenance had previously taken some time to complete when utilising the contractor that had initially installed the surface though in order to minimise closure periods for this type of repair the HBC's Facilities Management Section are now engaged to carry out these types of repairs, the surfacing used is not the original colour of the pool floor but the repairs can be done in one day, resulting in a faster turnaround.

In relation to the options considered for the future management of the pools as set out in the report, the Director indicated that operating a shorter paddling pool season was to be operated, linked to the dates of the lifeguard season at Seaton Carew.

The Director also highlighted to the Forum that there was to be an increase in the various rights this year to increase income and offer more facilities. It was hoped to expand the Various Rights programme at the Seaton Paddling Pool from two sites to four sites.

The Director also outlined the revised beach cleansing operations where a possible improvement in service cover may result from the transfer of responsibility for beach cleansing to the Parks and Countryside section who currently operated a small fleet of tractors for its grounds maintenance contracts and had a large number of trained operatives. The centralisation of these maintenance responsibilities within the Parks and Countryside team which also provides beach safety, lifeguards, paddling pools, various rights and had substantive coastal responsibility in the coastal countryside and nature conservation assets it manages on behalf of the authority might also provide greater service responsiveness and flexibility.

Members were concerned in relation to the issues reported for the Headland paddling pool. There was concern expressed at the potential movement of the ground due to the sea wall and why this hadn't been considered at the time the pool was constructed. Similar comments were made in relation to the pool surface; if it was so expensive to repair why was it used. The Director agreed with Members but indicated that the Headland Pool had been replaced through SRB funding and while the Council had been consulted, the decisions were made by the SRB Board based on consultants' advice. Replacing or re-

siting the pool would be prohibitively expensive and the Director considered that the current approach should be maintained. The Chair asked that the Director provide details of the costs associated with the current maintenance of the two paddling pools and potential costs of full remediation/re-siting works. There was a long history of the two pools being used by generations of local families and there was a wish to keep the two pools open but only if this was cost effective.

In relation to the increase in various rights reported, Members of the Forum sought assurance that this would be temporary siting and not involve further construction. The Director confirmed that this was the case.

There were also comments made by the Forum in relation to the beach cleansing programme as to why the Block Sands area and the North Sands were never cleaned. The Director commented that there had been past criticism of cleaning in these areas as it disturbed native and migratory bird feeding and nesting sites.

Members also queried why there was no lifeguard provision for the North Sands area. This was a popular area with families and bathers, yet the provision of lifeguards seemed to have been ignored. The Director indicated that the provision had been examined but it would need to be provided as a completely separate service; the distances concerned meant it was not safe to be linked to the Seaton Carew service which made it a very expensive service to implement. The number of bathers at the North Sands also did not come anywhere near the number at Seaton Carew.

Members asked in relation to the Seaton Carew paddling pool area if it was possible for some benches to be installed around the pool. The Director indicated that this and other improvements were linked to finance through the Seaton Carew Master Plan which was dependent on the sale of council owned land in the area.

Recommended

1. That the report and comments be noted.
2. That the Forum be informed of the full breakdown of costs for the two paddling pools in relation to on-going maintenance; to fully repair to original standard; and to replace/re-site, together with details of the consultants that designed the Headland paddling pool and the original build costs.

64. Investigation into ‘Foreshore Management’ - The balance between conservation and tourism in relation to how the foreshore is managed including current and future budget pressures (*Scrutiny Support Officer*)

The Urban and Planning Policy Manager gave a presentation to the Forum outlining the Council’s approach to the balance between conservation and

tourism in relation to how the foreshore is managed while continuing to stimulate economic growth. The presentation highlighted the case for Heritage Tourism, the historic environment, and the wider benefits tourism could bring to Hartlepool and the Tees Valley.

Whilst tourism generated significant benefits to the local economy and coastal tourism is an important part of the regeneration strategy for towns like Hartlepool, tensions often exist in relation to supporting development and growth whilst maintaining character and heritage of an area, providing access to sensitive areas and landscape areas and preserving and protecting them, and accommodating the needs of visitors with the wishes of local residents

The presentation also highlighted issues such as the audit of conservation areas, the relevant planning policies, regeneration through tourism, and a focus on the key tourism areas of the Headland and Seaton Carew. The Seaton Carew Master Plan was also referred to as a key document for the future of the resort.

Members queried the potential impact of the Seaton Carew Master Plan when very little appeared to have been achieved so far and £200,000 was not going to restore the town to its former glory. There were similar issues in the Headland where SRB investment had implemented schemes that were now proving to be very expensive to maintain. The Urban and Planning Policy Manager commented that while the authority had always been able to gain money for capital schemes it never got the associated revenue budget for maintenance. In the future the principal behind any schemes may have to be to do less but to do it better so as to reduce on-going costs. In relation to the investment in Seaton Carew, a recent audit had shown that £2m had been invested since 2003. Admittedly, the £200,000 identified in the Master Plan would not go far, officers were examining how resources released through land sale in Seaton Carew could be used to enhance the town. Any potential sale of the old fair ground for example would include a requirement to improve the site frontage possibly through a Section 106 Agreement and the land sale agreement.

During the discussions comment was made that Seaton Carew and Hartlepool make little of the extensive flat access available to the disabled. Improvements to the availability of disabled toilets was required but otherwise there was great scope for attracting the disabled to the area.

There was great concern expressed by the Forum as to the management of the beach north of Brus towards Crimdon Dene. Motorbikes, quad bikes and sea-coaling trucks were destroying the grassed areas, dunes and beach. There was also an old waste tip behind the dunes that was in threat of being exposed. It was reported that work had been undertaken to reduce the access through the Steetley site but that the comments of the Forum would be referred onto the appropriate officers for action. Officers did indicate that some of the sand erosion from the area had been put down to the closing of the pits to the north and the ending of dumping of waste into the sea.

The Chair asked that a further report be submitted on the problems being experienced due to the motor bikes and vehicles on the beach.

The Forum commented on the money that had previously been spent on Seaton Carew. There was criticism of the lack of consistency in simple things such as ensuring the same lampposts were installed in the conservation area. Members were also critical of issues such as the length of time it was taking to tackle the Longscar Hall eyesore. Officers did indicate that the appropriate processes were in place to deal with the Longscar Hall but it was a difficult issue and bound by statutory time frames. A compulsory purchase order for instance could take as long as year to process even if everything went to plan. Officers were trying to reach agreement with the owners of the site to move the matter forward.

Members questioned some of the statistics highlighted within the presentation relating to the benefit to the town from tourism and particularly the number of jobs directly linked to tourism. The Urban and Planning Policy Manager indicated that the estimated figure 835 people employed directly and indirectly in the visitor economy were based on a model devised by Scarborough Borough Council to estimate this type of employment. Officers did feel the figure may underestimate the true figure for Hartlepool and Seaton Carew.

The meeting also discussed the issue of the sea defence work that was needed, particularly in Seaton Carew. Officers indicated that the previous talk of additional sea defences twelve feet high were originally identified as a potential solution but the proposed solution now involved a much reduced impact. Improvements were needed and work on these was expected to start later in the year.

The meeting also briefly discussed the benches and seating areas installed on the Headland during the North Hartlepool SRB which were now in a poor state of repair.

The Chair thanked everyone for their input to the debate and requested that further information be brought to the Forum on the situation with the maintenance of the beaches to the north and the problems being experienced with vehicles on the beaches in that area.

Recommended

1. That the presentation and the comments during the debate be noted.
2. That further information be submitted to the Forum on
 - (a) the situation regarding vehicles on the beach - i.e motor bikes / coal trucks. What damage do they cause / are they permitted on the beach / can enforcement action be taken?
 - (b) who maintains the beach from Brus to Crimdon Dene and how is it monitored / how many enforcement notices had been issued.
 - (c) a full update report on all current and potential future developments / improvements on the Seaton Carew foreshore.

65. Investigation into ‘Foreshore Management’ - The coordination of foreshore management services - Evidence from The Environment Agency (*Scrutiny Support Officer*)

The Scrutiny Support Officer reported to the meeting that, unfortunately, the representative from the Environment Agency had been unable to attend the meeting but had submitted some written evidence which was tabled for Members information.

Recommended

That the information be noted.

66. Investigation into ‘Foreshore Management’ - The coordination of foreshore management services - evidence from Northumbrian Water (*Scrutiny Support Officer*)

The representative from Northumbrian Water gave a presentation to the Forum identifying the role of Northumbrian Water, how waste water was treated and disposed of at sea and the works and investment that had been undertaken over the years to improve the treatment of waste and along the Hartlepool Coast. Previously there had been a number of sewerage outfall pipes all along the coast that had discharged untreated waste into the sea. All the waste from Hartlepool was now routed through to the Seaton Carew Head Works where it received primary and secondary treatment and Ultra Violet (UV) treatment before being sent out through a 4km long outfall pipe into Tees Bay.

Concern had been expressed in the past that the ‘foaming’ that occurred in the sea and was often washed ashore was algal growth that occurred in warm weather and nothing to do with sewerage. There was a second 1km outfall from the Seaton Works that was only used when there was high rainfall and the works could not cope with the water input. Both the outfall pipes were maintained by the company to ensure they were working correctly.

The water discharged had to meet legislative requirements. There were however three sets of regulations that applied some statutory, some guidance. Northumbrian Water (NW) worked to the most stringent of these regulations and while there had been years that the water discharged had not met the tighter guidance standards, it had always met the statutory requirements. Heavy rainfall was the biggest problem in relation to the company’s ability to meet the standards. The UV treatment of water was undertaken during the bathing season. The long outfall pipe did however mean that any water discharged had little affect on bathing quality.

The Northumbrian Water representative reported that the company also had a number of other significant issues that affected its service. A growing problem

was the theft of plant equipment and the company was even having to fit GPS tracking equipment to some very significant pieces of plant equipment.

The Northumbrian Water representative reported that for the majority of the time, the bathing water quality was excellent. When there were failures, the company did investigate these thoroughly. The new blue flag standards were very high requiring an 'excellent' standard of bathing water. Northumbrian Water consistently met the 'sufficient' standard along the Hartlepool coast but as indicated, heavy rainfall could affect that quite easily. The bathing water standard at North Gare met the standard and showed how it could vary over relatively short distances.

Members questioned the issue of the algal bloom and indicated that there had been an increase in the problem and there was a view that it was caused by the amount of sewerage discharged into the sea. The Northumbrian Water representative stated that the brown foaming algal bloom was a clean seawater problem and NW were clear it was not caused by their activities.

If there were problems with the plant, or heavy rainfall that resulted in waste being deposited on the beach, the NW would clean the area, if informed.

Members were concerned at whether the head works at Seaton Carew were adversely affecting the gaining of a blue flag. The Northumbrian Water representative indicated that the Environment Agency (EA) tested the water quality on set days. If an area had had a large amount of rainfall within a day or so of this testing, then it was very difficult to gain the blue flag status. The only option to ensuring that the water quality didn't dip during adverse weather was to construct drainage and sewerage systems together with treatment plants that could accommodate those very significant one in 20, 50 or 100 year rainfall events. The amount of investment to achieve this would be huge; the question would be would consumers be prepared to pay for that through bills that would increase substantially.

Members questioned the odour control at the head works and the Northumbrian Water representative indicated that additional works were ongoing to reduce this problem. Members also questioned some of the technical standards and levels quoted by NW and what that meant in real terms. After a short discussion the Chair suggested that some further information should be provided to spell out in layman's terms just what these standards meant.

The Forum also questioned during debate technical issues surrounding the size of sewerage pipes installed in certain areas of the town, which outfall pipes may be utilised during significant rainfall events, and problems in the High Tunstall area of the town.

The Chair thanked the Northumbrian Water representative for his presentation and responses to the Forum's questions. There was, however, some further information that the members would require to assist them in this process and this had been drawn out through the debate. In light of this, the Chair

considered that it may be prudent to hold an additional meeting to consider the additional information requested from all the various sources at the meeting.

Recommended

1. That the presentation and the comments of the meeting be noted.
2. That further information be provided to the Forum on –
 - (a) the brown foaming on the sea – what is it, how is it treated and is it dangerous?
 - (b) Fluorocarbons in the water – what is it and what levels are dangerous to human health?
 - (c) the Algal bloom – what is it, how is it caused, is it harmful and is it caused by pollutants in the water?

The meeting concluded at 7.00 p.m.

CHAIR

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

23 March 2011



Report of: Scrutiny Manager

Subject: SIX MONTHLY MONITORING OF AGREED
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY
FORUM'S RECOMMENDATIONS

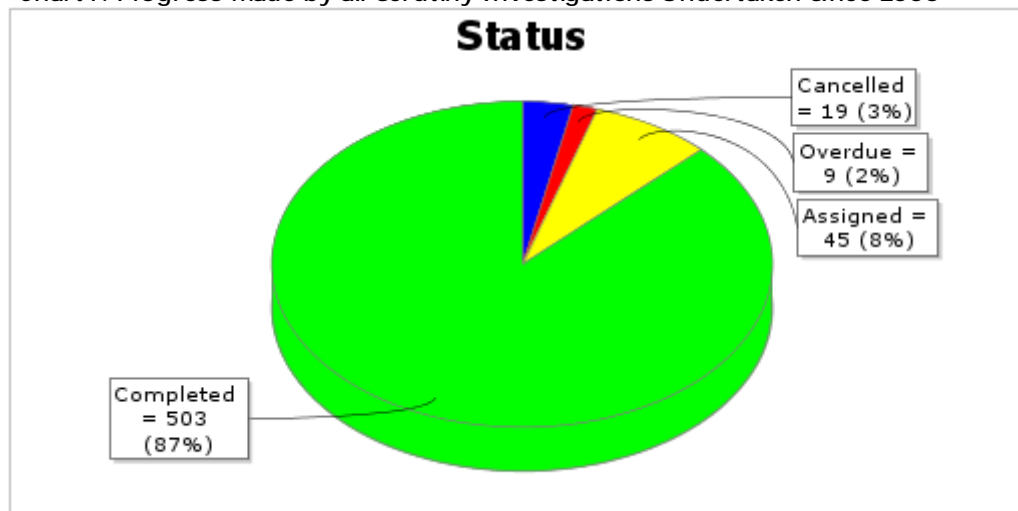
1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with the six monthly progress made on the delivery of the agreed scrutiny recommendations of this Forum.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 In November 2007 the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee approved the introduction of the Scrutiny Monitoring Database, an electronic database, to monitor the delivery of agreed scrutiny recommendations since the 2005/06 Municipal Year.
- 2.2 In March 2010 Scrutiny Chairs noted and agreed for the movement of the Scrutiny Monitoring Database into the Covalent, which is the Council's Performance Management System.
- 2.3 In accordance with the agreed procedure, this report provides for Members details of progress made against each of the investigations undertaken by the Forum. **Chart1** overleaf is the overall progress made by all scrutiny forums since 2005. **Appendix A** provides a detailed explanation of progress made against each scrutiny recommendation agreed by this Forum since the last update to this Forum on 15 September 2010.

Chart1: Progress made by all Scrutiny Investigations Undertaken since 2005



3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That Members:-

- (a) Note progress against the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's agreed recommendations, since the 2005/06 Municipal Year, and explore further where appropriate; and
- (b) Retain **Appendix A** for future reference.

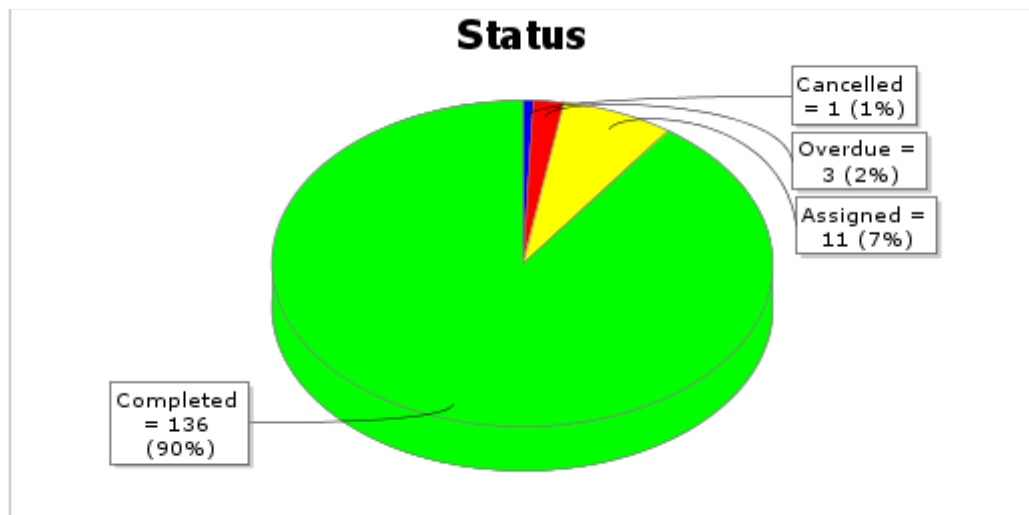
Contact Officer:- Joan Stevens – Scrutiny Manager
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum - All

Generated on: 11 March 2011



Year 2005/06

Investigation Hartlepool's Local Bus Service Provision

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-NS/2a/ii That work be undertaken by the Authority to improve the infrastructure of the bus network in Hartlepool.	SCR-NS/2a/ii Continue to review issues relating to timetable information. Improve clarity and presentation of at stop timetable information. Provide Real Time information at	Geoff Knowlson	01 Dec 2011	01 Dec 2011	23 Feb 2010 New style of timetable displays introduced at bus stops to improve clarity and presentation. Real Time Passenger Information delayed as a result of	<div> <div></div> <div>Assigned</div> </div>

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
	selected stops and through the internet, WAP and SMS.				problems with the Tees Valley system.	

Year 2008/09

Investigation Coastal Defence and Shoreline Management in Hartlepool

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-NS/8a That the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Communities lobby the Government to increase the funding available for coastal protection works.	SCR-NS/8a Grant aid is currently managed by the Environment Agency on behalf of DEFRA. Lobbying can be undertaken at a regional level at Newcastle or at a national level at London as part of the National Review Group meeting (NRG). Lobbying will have to be undertaken at the correct point in time for each individual project.	Dennis Hancock	31 Dec 2010	31 Dec 2011	04 Mar 2011 Hartlepool successful in being awarded a capital grant allocation of approx £6m (over 2011/12 - 2013/14) for upgrading the coastal defence in Seaton Carew and reviewing the long term coastal strategy for the Headland area. Lobbying was carried out in presentation of the Seaton Strategy to the Environment Agency's National Review Group in September 2010 and will be carried out for any further projects to be promoted. This is an ongoing process 23 Feb 2010 The Seaton Carew Strategy Study is to be presented to the Environment Agency's National Review Group in April 2010.	<div><div>50%</div></div> Assigned
SCR-NS/8c That the Council continues to	SCR-NS/8c All coast protection studies follow a methodology as	Dennis Hancock	31 Dec 2010	31 Dec 2011	04 Mar 2011 Climate change is a	<div><div>50%</div></div> Assigned

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
promote climate change and involves local residents in raising awareness of the effects it has on Hartlepool's coastline.					Fundamental factor to be considered in all coastal studies and will remain a key issue for consideration when studies are progressed.	
					23 Feb 2010 Continuing to promote the impact of climate change and its effect on Hartlepool's coastline.	
SCR-NS/8d That the Council establishes the potential risks and implications associated with the loss of the Heugh Breakwater infrastructure and communicates this to members of the public to alleviate concerns.	SCR-NS/8d	Dennis Hancock	30 Jun 2009	01 Dec 2011	04 Mar 2011 Heugh Breakwater to be reviewed in detail by the Headland Coastal Strategy Review which commenced in January 2011. Public consultation will be carried out over the course of producing the Strategy review.	<div><div>30%</div></div> Assigned
					23 Feb 2010 The Headland Strategy Study is due for review in 2011 when further consideration will be given.	
SCR-NS/8e That the Council continues to evaluate the risks of developing on sites which could	SCR-NS/8e	Dennis Hancock	31 Mar 2010	31 Dec 2011	04 Mar 2011 Seaton Coastal Strategy study complete. Review of Headland Strategy commenced in January	<div><div>50%</div></div> Assigned

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
potentially be at risk of coastal erosion in order to ensure the sustainability of future building developments.	<p>hundred years. These identify parts of the coastline where coastal erosion is likely to occur.</p> <p>The Strategy Studies which are the next level down in the hierarchical system used by the Environment Agency look at such vulnerable areas in more detail and identify potential solutions.</p> <p>These studies will assist the planning process in ensuring that potential developments will be sustainable.</p>				2011. These will inform the risks of developing on sites which could potentially suffer from coastal erosion	
					23 Feb 2010 Seaton Strategy Study currently ongoing, review of the Headland Strategy Study planned for 2011.	
SCR-NS/8f That the Council continues to consult extensively with local residents on current / future coastal studies and where appropriate holds such consultation events in the locations covered by the relevant study.	SCR-NS/8f <p>The Seaton Carew public exhibition was held at the Staincliffe Hotel and was well attended by members of the public.</p> <p>The forthcoming public exhibition associated with the Town Wall project will be held at the Borough Hall.</p> <p>All future public exhibitions will be located as near as possible to the areas covered by the studies.</p>	Dennis Hancock	30 Jun 2009	01 Dec 2011	04 Mar 2011 Consultation is an ongoing process and was carried out extensively for the Seaton Carew Coastal Strategy. Consultation will be a key requirement of the Headland Strategy review which commenced in January 2011 and events will be arranged and held locally.	<div> <div>50%</div> Assigned </div>
					23 Feb 2010 The second public consultation meeting for the Strategy Study was held in the Staincliffe Hotel. The Town Wall meeting was held at the Borough	

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					Hall. A further public meeting for the Town Wall Study will be held in the Borough Hall early 2010.	



Year 2008/09

Investigation Condition of Highways in Hartlepool

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-NS/7a That the Council develops a strategy to achieve a planned approach to highways maintenance as opposed to a reactive approach.	SCR-NS/7a	Mike Blair	01 Jun 2010	01 Jun 2011	07 Mar 2011 Strategy still being developed in conjunction with other Tees Valley Partners. Requirement for a joint strategy has delayed the process beyond expected due date.	<div> <div>25%</div> Assigned </div>
					20 Jan 2011 Strategy still being developed in conjunction with other Tees Valley Partners. Requirement for a joint strategy has delayed the process beyond expected due date.	
					01 Sep 2010 Strategy still being developed in conjunction with other Tees Valley Partners. Requirement for a joint strategy has delayed the process beyond expected due date.	
					14 Apr 2010 An interim strategy was reported to and approved by the	

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					Portfolio Holder in August 2009. Longer term strategy will be developed based on the contents of this report	
					23 Feb 2010 An interim strategy will be presented to portfolio holder in August 2009 whilst the long term strategy incorporating the different levels of service is being developed for 2010.	

Year 2009/10**Investigation** Car Parking on Estates

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-NS/9a That the Council explores the viability of extending the operational hours of resident parking schemes to include evenings and weekends;	SCR-NS/9a Consider views of Permit user group members. Additional coverage would incur further staffing costs which would need to be recovered through increased permit charges. Last time this was considered residents were unwilling to pay for further coverage. Enforcement hours are currently Mon – Sat 8am-6pm	Philip Hepburn	01 Mar 2011	01 Mar 2011	18 Aug 2010 Permit user group meeting to be scheduled November 2010-	 17% Overdue
SCR-NS/9b That the Council explores ways of publicising the reporting arrangements and points of contact for	SCR-NS/9b Publicity to be improved via website, Council A-Z services , and Hartlepool Connect scripted service provision.	Philip Hepburn	01 Mar 2011	01 Mar 2011	18 Aug 2010 Website updates are scheduled to take place in Jan 2011-	 17% Overdue

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
parking problems;						
SCR-NS/9f That the Council develops a process to monitor and review the impact of the Minor Works funding allocation available to each individual Neighbourhood Consultative Forum on a ward basis	SCR-NS/9f The Neighbourhood Coordinators in each of the three forum area will take photographs before and after the parking scheme is delivered to demonstrate the impact within the community. During the financial year each forum area is monitored by the Neighbourhood Manager with regard to the spend in each ward and a table is produced at year end to indicate the scheme type and costs per ward.	Jon Wright	01 Mar 2011	01 Dec 2011	02 Mar 2011 Most schemes are now complete, however some new parking schemes were only agreed at the last round of Consultative Forums held week commencing 14th February. 03 Aug 2010 Forum schemes are late this year due to elections however this will take place	<div><div></div>80%</div> Assigned

Year 2009/10

Investigation Climate Change and Carbon Management

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-NS/11e That the Council publicise their climate change targets along with how the public can help to achieve these targets;	SCR-NS/11e Climate change targets and actions will be publicised, as well as associated successes. The Press Office will be kept informed of progress to ensure that the community is aware of progress and how they can take action.	Paul Hurwood	01 Mar 2011	01 Apr 2011	28 Feb 2011 Press release produced in response to HBC receiving a certificate from the Carbon Trust to recognise efforts that have been made to	<div><div></div>95%</div> Assigned

reduce carbon emissions. The Carbon Action Now Departmental Officers group was pictured with the certificate and accompanied the press

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					<p>release. A number of events fall during March 2011, and will present opportunities for promoting targets and achievements. Most notable are Climate Week (21-27 March) and Earth Hour (26 March). Activities are currently being planned and press releases, including info on targets and successes, will be produced for these events to generate further publicity.</p> <p>06 Jan 2011 Steve Hilton, Public Relations Officer continues to represent Press Office on Carbon Action Now Group, and is aware of advancements, targets, successes, etc. Q&A regarding home insulation appeared in Christmas edition of Hartbeat magazine. Regular article on climate change/carbon reduction to appear in Staff News. Efforts will be made to inform public of renewable energy advancements as and when they develop.</p> <p>14 Oct 2010 Publicity generated through articles for newslines and</p>	

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					<p>Regen & N'Hoods Departmental newsletter and through 10:10 carbon reduction email to all staff. Switch Off & Save Energy Awareness Training due to be launched on 26th October by Mayor & Denise Ogden - photo will be used for generation of publicity.</p> <p>15 Sep 2010 Home insulation articles to appear in Hartbeat and Newsline</p> <p>15 Sep 2010 -- enter new status update --</p> <p>15 Jul 2010 Discussed with external partners at Climate Change Working Group meeting. Group will ensure that figures, targets, actions and successes are communicated across the borough.</p>	
SCR-NS/11f That the Council continue to educate the public and the Council's workforce on how to help reduce energy costs;	SCR-NS/11f/i Climate change awareness raising activities and displays will be held at various locations.	Paul Hurwood	01 Mar 2011	01 Apr 2011	<p>28 Feb 2011 The Environment Roundabout was a success, with around 500 school children attending to learn about a range of</p>	<div>95%</div> Assigned

environmental issues and how they link to climate change. Preparations are underway for Climate Week (21-27 March).

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					<p>HBC has registered to show support for Climate Week, and planning to undertake the Climate Week 1 Hour Challenge.</p> <p>Approached Hartlepool Water and Housing Hartlepool to ask for support - ie for them to also complete the 1 Hour Challenge. In contact with Public Relations Officer to produce Press Release to encourage other organisations and groups to show their support and register for Climate Week. Details of the 1 Hour Challenge will not be released by the Climate Week team until the first day of Climate Week. Cycle to work activity planned for Climate Week.</p> <p>Schools have been invited to undertake projects during Climate Week. Earth Hour falls this year on 26th March, and the Carbon Action Now team is considering ideas for a visible illumination in Hartlepool to be turned off for the hour. The public will be encouraged to take part in Earth Hour closer to the event.</p>	

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					<p>06 Jan 2011 Switch off & Save energy awareness training clip sent to all office based employees.</p> <p>Environment Roundabout will be held at end of January 2011, and will educate pupils from a range of schools from across the town.</p> <p>14 Dec 2010 Smarter Living Roadshow event held at Civic Centre. Unfortunately larger scale event at Middleton Grange Shopping Centre had to be cancelled as partners unable to participate due to severe weather (snow).</p> <p>14 Oct 2010 Smarter Living Roadshow event planned to take place at Throston School on 18th October. School visits to the Environmental Education Centre at Burn Road continue.</p> <p>15 Sep 2010 Climate change and associated displays at Tall Ship for duration of event. Community/voluntary sector activities and workshop held in partnership with HVDA during July and August. Climate Change presentation delivered to Hartlepool Retired</p>	

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					<p>Mens Forum, and follow up energy saving event being planned.</p> <p>16 Jul 2010 Hartlepool Schools competed and won Regional Solar Car Challenge. Three Schools Switch Off & Save assemblies delivered in Q1. Green Britain Day event at Hartlepool Powerstation. Keys to success event in partnership with Housing Hartlepool - practical on-site examples for home energy efficiency. Brougham Centre Health Event - attended with climate change/energy efficiency information stall.</p>	
SCR-NS/11i That the Council continue to promote cycling initiatives to the public and the workforce	<p>SCR-NS/11i</p> <p>A Sustainable Travel Officer will be appointed to provide cycle training and promotion, as well as to work on school and staff travel plans.</p> <p>Back to Biking training will be offered to employees alongside the forthcoming cycle salary sacrifice scheme. Training will be made available to HBC employees and the general public through the appointment of National Standard Cycle Trainers</p>	Alastair Smith; Paul Watson	01 Mar 2011	01 Mar 2011	<p>22 Oct 2010 Sustainable Travel Officer is involved in the Councils Salary Sacrifice Scheme and is currently involved in the promotion of walking and cycling in all schools</p> <p>01 Sep 2010 Robert Snowball appointed 19/7/2010 and will deliver sustainable travel issues to HBC staff and the general public</p> <p>29 Jul 2010 Robert Snowball appointed</p>	<div> <div></div> <div>00%</div> </div> <p>Overdue</p>

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					19/7/2010 and will deliver sustainable travel issues to HBC staff and the general public.	




Year 2009/10**Investigation** Possible Environmental Impacts of Dust Deposits on the Headland and Surrounding Areas

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-NS/10f That the Council explores with the relevant companies the option of moving the scrap metal and all the cargoes; and provides an update to Cabinet on the discussions which have been undertaken within three months;	SCR-NS/10f Series of meetings to be set up with relevant parties in order to conclude or reach an agreement on any options for moving the scrap metal and other problematic cargoes from the Port.	Dave Stubbs	31 Aug 2010	31 Aug 2011	11 Mar 2011 Discussions ongoing but no movement at present 03 Aug 2010 Meetings are taking place.	<div><div></div>80%</div> Assigned

Year 2006/07**Investigation** Performance and Operation of Private Sector Rented Accommodation and Landlords in Hartlepool

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-NS/4e That an assessment of staffing requirements to enable the effective provision, and	SCR-NS/4e Prepare a report on the operation and effectiveness of the accreditation scheme. Identify possible improvements to the effectiveness of the	Joanne Burnley	30 Nov 2007	30 Nov 2007	29 Apr 2010 Report prepared	<div><div></div>100%</div> Completed

Recommendation	Action		Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
expansion, of the Landlord Accreditation Scheme be undertaken.		scheme. Assess additional resources required to make the accreditation scheme more effective.					
SCR-NS/4h That ways of assisting the NDC to identify alternative funding sources to ensure the continuation of its Bond Guarantee scheme be explored.	SCR-NS/4h	Provide assistance in identifying sources of funding for the Bond Guarantee Scheme.	Penny Garner-Carpenter	31 Dec 2007	31 Dec 2007	29 Apr 2010 Help to CAB in identifying funding has been offered	<div><div>100%</div></div> Completed
SCR-NS/4j That in dealing with planning applications for the provision of supported housing ways of better publicising accurate details of applications be explored in order to prevent the creation of misapprehensions.	SCR-NS/4j	Establish procedures for working with partners to ensure that timely and extensive consultation with residents and members is undertaken as applications are considered, ensuring that statutory guidelines on consultation within the planning processes are followed.	Penny Garner-Carpenter	31 Mar 2008	31 Mar 2008	29 Apr 2010 Completed and achieved.	<div><div>100%</div></div> Completed
SCR-NS/4i That the development of a working relationship between Registered Social Landlords and the private rented sector for the sharing of management services be explored.	SCR-NS/4i	Explore the types of services that could be offered by RSLs to private landlords to improve/enhance management. Identify the level of interest of RSLs to take on this work.	Sylvia Pinkney	31 Jan 2008	31 Jan 2008	29 Apr 2010 A partnership arrangement across the sub region is being investigated. One RSL has registered an interest in providing services where management and empty dwelling management orders have been served.	<div><div>100%</div></div> Completed
SCR-NS/4n That the Authority explores a	SCR-NS/4n	Explore the options available for lobbying	Sylvia Pinkney	30 Nov 2007	30 Nov 2007	29 Apr 2010 Local Housing Allowance, a	<div><div>100%</div></div> Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
mechanism by which to lobby the Rent Office and Central Government in relation to the requirement of realistic rent assessments.	Government and the Rent Service.				new way of calculating Housing Benefit, was introduced in April 2008, based on middle range rents for the size of property across the sub-region, removes the need to follow up this recommendation.	
SCR-NS/4o That a review be undertaken of the process for the award of Discretionary Payments	SCR-NS/4o Negotiations between Department of Regeneration & Planning & Finance Department to decide on the future allocation of discretionary payments	Penny Garner-Carpenter	31 Oct 2008	31 Oct 2008	29 Apr 2010 We have agreement with the Finance Division that an officer from housing will sit on the panel, that we contribute to producing guidelines and policy and that we have an officer on appeals panel. Finance will consider inclusion of additional funding as a budget priority.	 100% Completed
SCR-NS/4p That the current budgetary allocation for Discretionary Payments be reviewed to more truly reflect demand.	SCR-NS/4p Carry out a review of the demand for Discretionary Payments and its impact on budget allocation.	Penny Garner-Carpenter	30 Oct 2008	30 Oct 2008	29 Apr 2010 The demand for discretionary payments has been considered against budget provision.	 100% Completed
SCR-NS/4q That further work is undertaken to more widely publicise the advice service available for residents, tenants and landlords through the local authority.	SCR-NS/4q Audit of literature and information available to be carried out. Identify ways of extending advice availability. Implement publicity as identified above.	Penny Garner-Carpenter	29 Feb 2008	29 Feb 2008	29 Apr 2010 Article published in Hartlepool Mail in April promoting service and importance of seeking advice as early as possible, further article planned for NHS magazine that will be published in the Summer and ongoing opportunities will be taken as they arise.	 100% Completed


Year 2007/08
Investigation School Meals

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-NS/5c That the Catering Manager is involved in the planning and design of any new dining facilities in schools resulting from the Building Schools for the Future programme.	SCR-NS/5c Head of Neighbourhood Management is a member of the extended project team. Consultation mechanisms are in place to ensure the Catering Manager is fully included in the planning and design of any new facility.	Peter McIntosh	31 Jan 2008	31 Dec 2010	<p>13 Oct 2010 The Catering Manager has had an input into the development of the new catering facilities at Dyke House (BSF sample school), the former Brierton site and Jesmond Road Primary (Primary Capital Programme). There are no further schemes planned under these programmes. In the current year, Catering Services staff have also been contributing to a number of school kitchen improvement projects included in the Council's capital programme.</p> <p>09 Jul 2010 Review of sample schemes underway by Government</p> <p>15 Apr 2010 Continued use of NSD specialist staff to support successful delivery of BSF programme.</p> <p>23 Feb 2010 The design process with two bidders began on 4th September 2009 and will end with the</p>	<div>100%</div> Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					submission of the Invitation to Tender by 22nd January 2010. The design development process is managed through a number of Design User Groups and this involves school representatives and appropriate Council officers and advisers including Assistant Directors (Procurement / Asset Management and Neighbourhood Services).	

Year 2008/09


Investigation Coastal Defence and Shoreline Management in Hartlepool

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-NS/8b That the Council undertakes a further assessment of the potential funding streams available for coastal protection works and considers whether further funding can be obtained from other sources.	SCR-NS/8b Officers will use the networking of the North East Coastal Group (NECG) to explore all potential funding streams that might have the potential to be used for assisting with coast protection works.	Dennis Hancock	31 Dec 2009	31 Dec 2009	04 Mar 2011 North East Coastal Group used as a vehicle to explore potential funding streams for coastal works. Although this action is complete it will also continue in the future as the Government proposes changes in the way that coastal schemes are allocated funding. 23 Feb 2010 Potential funding streams are currently being explored and this will continue	 100% Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					into the future.	

Year 2008/09


Investigation Condition of Highways in Hartlepool

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-NS/7j That the Council integrates Confirm, the highways system with the Customer Relationship Management System in order to improve the accuracy and efficiency of the monitoring and feed back arrangements for customer enquiries.	SCR-NS/7j Hartlepool Connect is currently in the process of identifying an appropriate middleware solution, which will allow the Customer Relationship Management System to integrate to other Council systems, including the Highways "Confirm" system. The Council's E-Government Team, in conjunction with the Contact Centre, are reviewing the options available. Considering system integration in isolation will increase overall costs and on that basis "Confirm" will be considered as part of that options process.	Julie Howard	01 Mar 2010	01 Mar 2010	<p>10 Dec 2010 Due to financial constraints this is not a priority project and no further action is planned in the foreseeable future.</p> <p>19 Apr 2010 As planned, the CRM system went live on 1 April 2010. A system integration plan is currently underdevelopment - this will be prioritised to maximise efficiency savings - each integration, subject to resources, will be supported by a sound business case. Confirm will be included within this plan.</p> <p>23 Feb 2010 Hartlepool Connect is in the process of upgrading its Customer Relationship Management (CRM) application. One of the primary benefits of upgrade is that system integration with other applications will be</p>	 100% Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					easier and more cost effective. We are confident that the upgrade will be ready for go-live on 1 April 2010. Following this date, we are to develop system integration proposals, which will be prioritised based upon volumes, transaction times and method of integration. The Confirm application will be considered as part of these proposals.	


Year 2009/10

Investigation Climate Change and Carbon Management

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-NS/11a That the Council lobby Central Government for additional funding to enable further energy saving initiatives to be delivered locally;	SCR-NS/11a Take recommendations for funding to Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership, and if necessary, consult Government Office North East to add strength to lobbying efforts. Discussions to take place at Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership, resulting in drafting of letter to Minister responsible.	Paul Hurwood	01 Sep 2010	01 Sep 2010	<p>15 Sep 2010 Discussed at Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership meeting on 1st Sept 2010. It was felt that this should not be progressed until details of coalition government's spending review are announced. This subject will be raised again following October spending review.</p> <p>15 Jul 2010 Raised informally at TV Climate Change Partnership. Will</p>	 100% Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					ask for this to be discussed as a formal agenda item at future meeting. Cllr Thomas, as Chair of NS Scrutiny Forum, has rightly suggested involving Iain Wright MP. This will be done, and other Tees Valley authorities will be encouraged to do the same.	
SCR-NS/11b That the Council continue to work with schools and businesses to support and encourage them to reduce their energy usage;	SCR-NS/11b Work with schools will continue during 2010/11, by the end of which, all schools will have achieved Bronze Eco-School status. In order for schools to be engaged, it will be vital that the Child & Adult Services Department is fully involved in all work within schools. The Tees Valley Green Business Network and Awards Scheme will allow for further work to be carried out with businesses from 2010/11 onwards.	Helen Beaman	01 Mar 2011	01 Mar 2011	<p>09 Mar 2011 -- enter new status update --</p> <p>20 Jan 2011 All schools have now signed up to the eco-schools programme, with 35 gaining bronze, silver or green flag status.</p> <p>22 Oct 2010 All schools within the Borough have now registered onto the Ecoschools programme with 32 schools having attained the bronze status, of these 18 have gone on to attain the higher silver award and 3 have the prestigious green flag.</p> <p>16 Jul 2010 In total 32 schools within the Borough have gained ecoschools status, this has meant that Hartlepool is 7th Nationally with regards to schools signed up to the programme. 17</p>	<div>100%</div> Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					schools have bronze status, 13 have silver and 2 have the prestigious green flag.	
SCR-NS/11d That the Council explore further ways to publicise climate change and work with the Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency and the wider voluntary and community sector	SCR-NS/11d/i Steps will be taken to extend the membership of the Hartlepool Climate Change Working Group, which sits beneath the Environment Partnership.	Paul Hurwood	01 Sep 2010	01 Sep 2010	15 Jul 2010 Housing Hartlepool have employed an Environmental Sustainability Co-ordinator, who has accepted invitation to join the working group. HVDA will be encouraged to join to represent the community and voluntary sector. Expanding the membership of the group will continue to be an item for discussion at meetings of the working group.	<div><div>100%</div></div> Completed
SCR-NS/11d That the Council explore further ways to publicise climate change and work with the Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency and the wider voluntary and community sector	SCR-NS/11d/ii An event will be held in partnership with HVDA, and a voluntary sector climate change action plan will be drafted as a result. Follow up discussions will be held with voluntary sector to ensure and monitor success.	Paul Hurwood	01 Jul 2010	01 Jul 2010	15 Sep 2010 20th July event held, and included an invitation to a follow up event. Follow up event held on 27th August, and included speakers from the regional Green Communities Project and the Hartlepool based Spinning Genny (bike powered generator) project. Attendees contributed actions that they will take to tackle climate change. List of actions to be shared with rest of	<div><div>100%</div></div> Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					Community Network to encourage others to take action.	
					15 Jul 2010 Climate Change presentation has been produced and will be delivered to Community Network on 20th July. Follow up workshop planned for August. Promotional material sent out to gauge interest.	
SCR-NS/11f That the Council continue to educate the public and the Council's workforce on how to help reduce energy costs;	SCR-NS/11f/iii A HBC energy/resource awareness campaign will be delivered to engage all employees in carbon management	Paul Hurwood	01 Mar 2011	01 Mar 2011	<p>17 Nov 2010 Official launch of the Switch Off & Save energy awareness campaign. Online training course produced and sent as an 'All Staff' email. This will be followed up with regular contact and promotional materials - emails, posters, etc, to ensure that momentum is maintained. Electrical item amnesty held to encourage employees to give up unnecessary energy consuming items.</p> <p>14 Oct 2010 Publicity and information sent out in lead up to 26th October 2010 launch. Online training resource will be introduced on 1st November 2010</p> <p>15 Sep 2010 Work ongoing for September</p>	 100% Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					launch	
					16 Jul 2010 Work underway to formulate awareness raising campaign based on trial sessions held during 2009/10. Buildings to be visited have been prioritised depending on energy performance to ensure that potential for savings is maximised. Scheme to be further developed and launched following holiday period to ensure that employees are able to attend sessions.	
SCR-NS/11g That the Council, wherever possible, hold meetings in appropriate size rooms to accommodate the number of people in attendance;	SCR-NS/11g Climate Change Officer to investigate options to ensure that the most suitable venue is used for meetings.	Paul Hurwood	01 Dec 2010	01 Dec 2010	14 Dec 2010 Switch Off & Save programme launched and will continue to promote energy efficiency, including using most suitable venue. Email sent to 'Committee Rooms' address to request that checks, regarding expected number of attendees, are made when bookings are placed.	<div>100%</div> Completed
					20 Oct 2010 This will be communicated through the Switch Off & Save Energy Awareness training, which will be rolled out in November 2010.	
					16 Jul 2010 Already	

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					being undertaken by majority of staff. Further work will be undertaken in Q2 to ensure that Civic Centre attendant and all employees are aware. Email will be sent to all employees.	
SCR-NS/11h That the Council encourage developers to install electric charging points for electric vehicles as part of any new developments;	SCR-NS/11h Work will be undertaken to ensure that developers are aware of the need for electric vehicle charging points, and are encouraged to include these in new developments	Mike Blair; Alastair Smith	01 Mar 2011	01 Mar 2011	<p>07 Mar 2011 Comments are included in all relevant planning applications to encourage the inclusion of electric charging points as an integral part of a development</p> <p>20 Jan 2011 Relevant comments continue to be incorporated into planning application responses.</p> <p>28 Sep 2010 Relevant comments continue to be incorporated into planning application responses.</p> <p>01 Sep 2010 Relevant comments now incorporated into planning application responses. Plugged in places initiative to be rolled out for new internal developments e.g. Transport Interchange.</p>	<div>100%</div> Completed
SCR-NS/11j That the Council explore the feasibility of	SCR-NS/11j Funding is available for the installation of cycle storage at sites around the town.	Mike Blair; Alastair Smith	01 Mar 2011	01 Mar 2011	<p>07 Mar 2011 Improved cycle storage facilities installed at Hartlepool</p>	<div>100%</div> Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
constructing additional cycling storage facilities in key locations across Hartlepool to encourage people to cycle	Work will be undertaken to identify suitable locations.				<p>Station and to be installed at Seaton Carew Station. Further facilities to be identified and potentially funded through future Planning Applications</p> <p>20 Jan 2011 Identification of appropriate sites continues.</p> <p>28 Sep 2010 -- enter new status update --</p> <p>01 Sep 2010 Storage units being provided at Transport Interchange in association with Niorthern Rail. Suitable other locations being investigated in conjunction with SUSTRANS.</p>	
SCR-NS/11k That officers explore the feasibility of requesting firms who submit tenders to include information on the carbon footprint of the works being tendered for	SCR-NS/11k Strategic Procurement Manager to investigate options for incorporating carbon footprinting into tender documents, in partnership with other relevant officers.	Graham Frankland; David Hart	01 Dec 2010	01 Dec 2010	<p>11 Mar 2011 This forms part of a series of activities relating to the tender process, i.e. pre-tender risk assessments. Work on pre-tender risk assessments has started and the financial part has been completed. Investigations have taken place into the practicalities of including carbon footprinting measures within our tender processes. I have spoken directly to Bill Kirkup. Project</p>	<div>100%</div> Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					<p>Manager- Sustainability, North East Improvement and Efficiency Partnership and he explained that whilst there are tools for assessing a company's carbon footprint, they don't lend themselves to use in a tender process. I was advised that currently there are no workable solutions to incorporating carbon footprinting into a tender process.</p> <p>03 Aug 2010 This forms part of a series of activities relating to the tender process, i.e. pre-tender risk assessments. Work on pre-tender risk assessments has started and the financial part has been completed.</p>	


Year 2009/10

Investigation Climate Change and Carbon Management; SCR-NS/11c That the Council explore further ways of working with children and young people to continue to promote climate change and its effects;

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
	SCR-NS/11c An event will be held for secondary school pupils, covering similar themes to the Environment Roundabout.	Helen Beaman	01 Mar 2011	01 Mar 2011	<p>20 Jan 2011 A litter/environmental enforcement scenario will take place at the ASBAD event in February to which all</p>	<div>100%</div> Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					secondary schools are expected to attend over 4 days.	
					22 Oct 2010 A secondary school event is planned for Quarter 4	
					16 Jul 2010 The format for the secondary schools event is currently being developed and sponsorship will be sought to host the event.	



Year 2009/10**Investigation** Possible Environmental Impacts of Dust Deposits on the Headland and Surrounding Areas

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-NS/10a That the Council write to the Environment Agency outlining the residents concerns highlighted throughout this investigation;	SCR-NS/10a Letter to be sent from Portfolio Holder to Environment Agency	Adrian Hurst	30 Jun 2010	30 Jun 2010	06 Oct 2010 Letter sent 20th September 2010	
					09 Aug 2010 Draft letter prepared and sent to Portfolio Holder and Chair of NS Scrutiny for approval.	 Completed
SCR-NS/10b That the Council lobby the Member of Parliament for Hartlepool and the Secretary of State for the Environment for changes to the statutory nuisance law	SCR-NS/10b	Adrian Hurst	30 Jun 2010	30 Jun 2010	06 Oct 2010 Letter sent 20th September 2010	
					09 Aug 2010 Draft Letter prepared and sent to Portfolio Holder and Chair of NS Scrutiny for approval.	 Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-NS/10d That Council Officers be instructed to pursue action for a statutory nuisance claim whilst recognising that this goes against professional advice;	SCR-NS/10d/i	Sylvia Pinkney	30 Nov 2010	30 Nov 2010	07 Mar 2011 Analysis of all data from monitoring equipment has been completed. There is no indication of statutory nuisance. Monitoring is continuing.	<div><div>100%</div></div> Completed
					18 Jan 2011 Additional resources have been targeted specifically in to this area. continuous monitoring being carried out on site from 3 locations. Data being collected, visits made when vessels unloading.	
					11 Aug 2010 Due date changed to November 2010 to reflect Cabinet's comment that this request was against professional advice backed up with a further recommendation that the Council lobby the Member of Parliament for Hartlepool and the Secretary of State for the Environment to change the statutory nuisance law. However, it was noted that this issue be revisited by Cabinet in 6 months time in view of the new monitoring arrangements to be put in place.	
SCR-NS/10d That Council Officers be instructed to pursue	SCR-NS/10d/ii	Sylvia Pinkney	30 Nov 2010	30 Nov 2010	07 Mar 2011 Analysis of all data from monitoring equipment indicates	<div><div>100%</div></div> Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
action for a statutory nuisance claim whilst recognising that this goes against professional advice;					that there is no statutory nuisance. Monitoring is continuing.	
					24 Jan 2011 To date no evidence to suggest statutory nuisance	
					11 Aug 2010 Due date changed to November 2010 to reflect Cabinet's comment that this request was against professional advice backed up with a further recommendation that the Council lobby the Member of Parliament for Hartlepool and the Secretary of State for the Environment to change the statutory nuisance law. However, it was noted that this issue be revisited by Cabinet in 6 months time in view of the new monitoring arrangements to be put in place.	
SCR-NS/10d That Council Officers be instructed to pursue action for a statutory nuisance claim whilst recognising that this goes against professional advice;	SCR-NS/10d/iii	Preparation of case file for any appeal	Sylvia Pinkney	30 Nov 2010	30 Nov 2010	<div>100%</div> Completed
					07 Mar 2011 All data from monitoring equipment, visits etc has been incorporated in to case file.	
					24 Jan 2011 Details of visits and data from monitoring equipment being collected as evidence for appeal	
					11 Aug 2010 Due date changed to November	

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					2010 to reflect Cabinet's comment that this request was against professional advice backed up with a further recommendation that the Council lobby the Member of Parliament for Hartlepool and the Secretary of State for the Environment to change the statutory nuisance law. However, it was noted that this issue be revisited by Cabinet in 6 months time in view of the new monitoring arrangements to be put in place.	
SCR-NS/10e That the Council facilitate discussions with Van Dalen to reinstate the informal agreement made between Van Dalen and residents on a maximum height for the scrap metal;	SCR-NS/10e Set up meeting with relevant parties to reach an agreement on the maximum height for the storage of scrap metal.	Adrian Hurst	31 Jul 2010	31 Jul 2010	10 Jan 2011 Further meeting held 18th November 2010	<div><div>100%</div></div> Completed
					10 Jan 2011 Further meeting to be arranged February 2011	
					22 Oct 2010 Further Meeting to be arranged for November 2010	
					09 Aug 2010 Meetings arranged with Van Dalen's, PD Ports and The Environment Agency. First meeting held on 24th June 2010.	
SCR-NS/10g That the Council carries out intense investigation and monitoring to collect	SCR-NS/10g/i Hire / purchase of temporary monitoring equipment.	Adrian Hurst	31 Jul 2010	31 Jul 2010	10 Jan 2011 Equipment all operational From end of October 2010	<div><div>100%</div></div> Completed
					06 Oct 2010 Equipment	

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
evidence of dust deposits;					installed. Currently sorting out teething problems with one of the monitors	
					09 Aug 2010 Equipment purchased and delivered. Arrangements in hand to install equipment at sites on Town Wall, Northgate and Ferry Road.	
					13 Jul 2010 Equipment Ordered on 21st June 2010. awaiting delivery.	
SCR-NS/10g That the Council carries out intense investigation and monitoring to collect evidence of dust deposits;	SCR-NS/10g/ii Purchase of permanent monitoring equipment	Adrian Hurst	31 Aug 2010	31 Aug 2010	22 Oct 2010 Equipment Purchased and will be installed 26th-28th October 2010.	
					09 Aug 2010 Approval obtained to purchase equipment and permanent monitoring equipment ordered. Delivery expected before the end of September 2010.	 Completed
					13 Jul 2010 Quotations for equipment obtained. Report to be taken to Portfolio Holder and Contracts Scrutiny Panel as equipment purchase is urgent and therefore we have gone outside of procurement rules.	
SCR-NS/10g That the Council carries out intense investigation and	SCR-NS/10g/iii Explore use of CCTV for monitoring activities on the Port	Adrian Hurst	31 Jul 2010	31 Jul 2010	22 Oct 2010 Hi definition CCTV Camera installed and operational at Northgate to monitor	 Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
monitoring to collect evidence of dust deposits;					activities on Irvines Quay.	
					07 Oct 2010 Arrangements have been made for installation of CCTV camera at identified site.	
					13 Jul 2010 Quotes for equipment obtained and site identified.	
SCR-NS/10g That the Council carries out intense investigation and monitoring to collect evidence of dust deposits;	SCR-NS/10g/iv	Employment of additional staff for 3 months to assist in investigation and collection of evidence.	Sylvia Pinkney	30 Jun 2010	30 Jun 2010	<div>100%</div> Completed
					22 Oct 2010 Officer commenced October 2010 16 Jul 2010 Post advertised .	
SCR-NS/10h/i That the Council, in relation to monitoring consult with residents to identify a suitable location for the new monitoring station;	SCR-NS/10h/i	Site visit with residents to identify possible locations Report back to residents on final location.	Adrian Hurst	30 Jun 2010	30 Jun 2010	<div>100%</div> Completed
					06 Oct 2010 Concrete base installed. Delivery and installation of monitoring station 27th October 2010 09 Aug 2010 Agreed a possible location on Town Wall for permanent monitoring station with the residents. In the process of negotiating the siting with Council's conservation officer.	
SCR-NS/10h/ii That given residents concerns regarding the effectiveness of the evidence received from Petri dishes they ceased	SCR-NS/10h/ii	Report back to residents on final location	Adrian Hurst	31 Aug 2010	31 Aug 2010	<div>100%</div> Completed
					22 Oct 2010 Monitoring station to be located on Town Wall as agreed with residents 09 Aug 2010 Informed residents that if we cannot for any reason	

Recommendation	Action		Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
to be used and alternative methods of collecting samples be explored;						locate the monitor on the preferred site on the Town Wall we will consult them on alternative locations.	
SCR-NS/10h/iv That the Council produce a guide for residents on sampling including the most effective ways to collect samples	SCR-NS/10h/iv	Advice leaflet to be produced	Adrian Hurst	30 Jun 2010	30 Jun 2010	10 Jan 2011 Leaflets distributed week beginning 29th November	<div><div>100%</div></div> Completed
						22 Oct 2010 Advice leaflets printed. Arrangements being made to distribute them to residents	
						09 Aug 2010 -- enter new status update --	
						09 Aug 2010 Advice leaflet in the process of being finalised ready for printing and distribution.	
SCR-NS/10i That the Council produce a document in consultation with residents that clarifies the remit and contact details for all the relevant organisations;	SCR-NS/10i	Advice leaflet to be produced	Adrian Hurst	30 Jun 2010	30 Jun 2010	10 Jan 2011 Document distributed week beginning 29th November	<div><div>100%</div></div> Completed
						22 Oct 2010 Advice leaflets printed. Arrangements being made to distribute them to residents	
						09 Aug 2010 Advice leaflet in the process of being finalised ready for printing and distribution.	
SCR-NS/10j That residents of the Headland and	SCR-NS/10j	Quarterly update to be provided to residents	Adrian Hurst	30 Jun 2010	30 Jun 2010	10 Jan 2011 Quarterly update to residents distributed week	<div><div>100%</div></div> Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
surrounding areas be kept up to date on the progress of all recommendations; and					beginning 29th November	
					22 Oct 2010 Update being prepared for circulation to residents with advice leaflets.	
					09 Aug 2010 Residents updated on provision and siting of monitoring equipment.	
SCR-NS/10k That Members of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum and residents be invited to attend the meeting of the Health Scrutiny Forum when it considers the additional information which has been requested from Professor Kelly.	SCR-NS/10k	The Health Scrutiny Forum is awaiting response from Executive Director of Public Health for NHS Tees. When the Health Scrutiny Forum considers the additional information the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum and residents will be invited to attend that meeting.	Laura Stones	31 Mar 2011	31 Mar 2011	<div> <div></div> <div>100%</div> <div>Completed</div> </div>
					11 Aug 2010 On target to meet agreed deadline	

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

23 March 2011



Report of: Scrutiny Manager

Subject: FORESHORE MANAGEMENT: ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION REQUESTED AT THE
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM
OF 23 FEBRUARY 2011- COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 23 February 2011, additional information was requested from the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department and Northumbrian Water.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Officers from the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department have prepared a report detailing the following information, as requested:-

Paddling Pools

- (a) Full breakdown of costs for paddling pools – i.e. maintenance costs, costs to fully repair and costs to replace
- (b) Who designed the Headland paddling pool and what was the cost to build it

Beach Cleaning

- (a) What is the situation regarding vehicles on the beach - i.e. motor bikes / coal trucks. What damage do they cause, can they go on the beach, can enforcement action be taken
- (b) Who maintains the beach from Brus to Crimdon Dene and how is it monitored / how many enforcement notices issued

Seaton Carew – Economic Growth

- (a) Full update on all current and future developments / improvements at Seaton Carew foreshore
- 2.2 The representative from Northumbrian Water has prepared a report detailing the following information, as requested:-
- (a) Brown foaming on the water – what is it, how is it treated and is it dangerous
 - (b) Fluorocarbons in the water – what is it, what levels are dangerous to human health
 - (c) Algal bloom – what is it, how is it caused, is it harmful and is it caused by pollutants in the water
- 2.3 Over and above the information outlined in Section 2.1 and 2.2, the following information has also been requested by the Chair of the Forum:-

Paddling Pool

- (i) Clarification of how long it is since the paddling pool was last refurbished; and
- (ii) Is the damage to the surface of the paddling pool due to the movement of the harbour wall / ground around it:
 - If 'no' would there be any comeback on the contractor who undertook the work?
 - If 'yes' was there any movement before the pool was refurbished last time?

Seaton Carew – Economic Growth

- (iii) An update on the work undertaken to promote Seaton;
- (iv) Work undertaken with businesses in Seaton (Inc Power Station) to obtain financial contributions. Is this still happening? Has it reduced?
- (v) Details of work undertaken to promote Seaton's natural attractions (i.e. SSI sites, Saltholm and the Dunes) and any work undertaken in partnership with them to promote them as attractions.
- (vi) Visitor numbers for Saltholm last year of operation (Inc breakdown of repeat visits).

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Members of the Forum consider the additional information, seeking clarification on any relevant issues.

Contact Officer:- Joan Stevens – Scrutiny Manager
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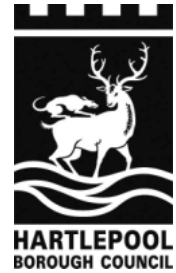
BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (a) Scrutiny Investigation into 'Foreshore Management' - Scoping Report (Scrutiny Support Officer) – 19.01.11
- (b) Minutes of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of 23 February 2011

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

23rd March 2011



Report of: Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods

Subject: SEATON CAREW – ECONOMIC GROWTH

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide further information as requested at the last meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum to assist Members with the investigation into the provision of Foreshore Management Services, specifically the Economic Growth for Seaton Carew.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall receiving a presentation at the last meeting from Regeneration Officers in relation to how the foreshore is managed while continuing to stimulate economic growth.
- 2.2 Further information was requested regarding the Economic Growth of Seaton Carew, specifically:
- Current and future improvement/development proposals
 - Work being undertaken to promote Seaton Carew
 - Work undertaken with businesses at Seaton Carew to obtain financial contributions

3. SEATON CAREW- ECONOMIC GROWTH

Current and future improvement/development proposals

- 3.1 The importance of Seaton Carew as a valuable visitor/tourism asset has been recognised in the Hartlepool Tourism Strategy and various regional and sub-regional policy documents and it plays an important role in Hartlepool's overall visitor offer. Along with the Hartlepool Maritime Experience, the Marina, Navigation Point and the Headland it contributes to the variety of places of visitor interest in Hartlepool. Seaton Carew also plays an important role for residents of Seaton Carew and the residents of

Hartlepool generally. The beach and promenade and the various visitor related businesses are well used by Hartlepool residents.

- 3.2 It is in recognition of the importance of Seaton Carew that various efforts have been made for a number of years to support, sustain and enhance these popular assets. The Council has had success in attracting external regeneration funding (including £2m between 2002 and 2006) to support investment in the public realm, business premises and conservation buildings through grant schemes, as well as ensuring the upkeep and maintenance of the beach and lifeguard service. Recent efforts to continue this investment in Seaton Carew have been less successful as the criteria associated with securing external regeneration funding has become more restricted and funding less abundant generally. Other funding opportunities have also been explored including two unsuccessful bids submitted for Sea Change funding. These bids were aimed at developing a comprehensive masterplan for the area and improving the physical environment. An award of £200,000 was made to Hartlepool in March 2010 from the previous governments Coastal Towns Grant programme and it is proposed to use this alongside other investment within Seaton Carew.
- 3.3 In response to the current funding situation, work has been progressed 'in-house' to develop a Masterplan for The Front at Seaton Carew. The plan which is in draft form covers the 'old fairground site' in the south, the Rocket House car park, the Longscar building and the remaining Council owned land up to the junction of Station Lane. The purpose of this plan is to bring together the regeneration aims of the Council in a concise document, which could be used to support and guide development including any future funding bids or other delivery mechanisms for the broader regeneration of Seaton Carew. Extensive consultation exercises, carried out previously relating to Seaton Carew Tourism Strategy and a previous Council scrutiny investigation around regeneration of Seaton Carew have helped identify the regeneration priorities and these have been captured in this draft Master Plan.
- 3.4 The intention is to include this document (including other sites in Seaton Carew) as part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) where it will be developed as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This will mean that when the document has been fully consulted on and adopted, it will become as part of the planning policy framework and used in the consideration of future planning applications. This will strengthen the Council's hand should it decide to pursue a CPO process to secure the acquisition and removal of the Longscar building.
- 3.5 In addition to these efforts focused at improving the area at The Front, officers have been involved in considering the potential development of other Council owned sites and how the value generated from their sale could secure resources to help deliver the regeneration of The Front, as well as improved or replacement community facilities. The community facilities in Seaton Carew including the sports hall and youth centre and library building

are all in need of substantial investment and are subject to ongoing costly maintenance programmes.

- 3.6 In 2009/10 Seaton Carew residents were consulted on development briefs for sites at Elizabeth Way and Coronation Drive which proposed their development for residential use, and part of Seaton Carew Park which offered the potential for the provision of replacement community facilities. The results were reported to Cabinet in January 2010 who noted the responses but decided not to progress with the marketing of the sites at that time due to the prevalent market conditions.
- 3.7 Since this consultation exercise was carried out, the reductions in Government funding and subsequent reductions in local government expenditure has re-focused the question of future community service provision across the whole town. A recent service review carried out by the Council's Community Services Division and approved by Council currently precludes any reduction in the library service in Seaton Carew but has agreed to the closure of the existing sports hall and youth club. Provision of future community facilities in Seaton Carew may depend in part on the ability to provide sustainable alternatives through realising value through existing sites and assets.
- 3.8 Given this situation, together with the recognition that parts of the Front, particularly the Longscar Building continues to exert a negative impact on the surrounding area the Cabinet has recently agreed to revisit the marketing of Council sites at Seaton Carew. At its meeting in February 2011 Cabinet approved a marketing brief and authorised officers to carry out an informal marketing exercise involving the two housing sites and the land at The Front inviting expressions of interest from potential developers. Responses are required to include outline proposals for the sites including an indication of how they would contribute to the delivery of the draft Master Plan and proposals relating to community facilities. The exercise is expected to give an indication of the level of interest in the identified sites either individually or collectively and some guidance as to the viability of delivering the various components of the wider plan. Submissions received will be assessed in early April. The intention is to identify a preferred developer who the Council would work with, to refine their proposals which would be incorporated within the master plan and would be subject to public consultation.
- 3.9 The marketing of these sites at this time is also appropriate as it will help ensure that the master plan ties in with the proposed improvements to the sea defences. Resources have been secured to carry out improvements to the section of sea defences from the access ramp opposite Station Lane, northwards and this is due to commence shortly. Appraisal work is progressing in relation to the next stretch of sea defences southwards to treatment works, and it is hoped that a successful bid will allow work on this scheme to commence within the next two years.
- 3.10 Whilst it is hoped that the implementation of the master plan can progress as quickly as possible, there are still a number of hurdles to overcome before

work can commence. The identification of viable investment package is critical, and until developers proposals are received and assessed, it is not clear whether the value of the Council owned sites are sufficient to support the investment plans. The range and types of potential uses along The Front will also need to be assessed. Whilst the preference is to ensure the provision of additional visitor related facilities the brief has been left flexible to allow a range and mix of uses to be considered. In relation to the Longscar Hall whilst efforts will be made to acquire the building by agreement, there may be a requirement to progress CPO procedures which can take some time to progress.

Work undertaken to promote Seaton Carew

- 3.11 In terms of work being undertaken to promote Seaton Carew, this was the subject of the previous scrutiny investigation into the Regeneration of Seaton Carew carried out in 2007/08. The importance of Seaton Carew in terms of its complementary role in helping diversify the Hartlepool tourism offer aimed at attracting overnight stays to the town has been strongly promoted in strategies including the Hartlepool Tourism Strategy, the Tees Valley Economic Regeneration Investment Plan and the earlier city region strategies. There has been less success in the past in convincing the Regional Development Agency of the resort's strategic importance and this has led to difficulties in securing external funds through them in recent years.

- 3.12 In terms of marketing, up until last year, the North East Tourism Network focused on delivering marketing to specific target markets and audiences:-

ONE North East Tourism Team – focused on three priority segments nationally and on 3 lead destinations, Newcastle/Gateshead, Durham and Northumberland. visitTeesvalley – the Area Tourism Partnership (ATP) which supported Hartlepool delivered an event led campaign, targeting potential visitors and residents within a 1-2 hour drive time.

Hartlepool Borough Council – focused on supporting the activity of visitTeesvalley through a variety of activities:-

- Hoteliers Group – which meets every 2 months to promote collaborative working, to network and to discuss current needs and markets
- Passport Group – meetings with representatives and businesses interested in the visitor economy, which also meets every two months
- Skills training e.g. Welcome Host training
- The annual Eat Guide, where several Seaton Carew restaurants are represented
- The Hartlepool mini-guide provides information for visitors and includes bespoke information on Seaton Carew. The guide is distributed to outlets within a two hour drive of Hartlepool
- Individual contacts and discussions with the Economic Development Tourism Team
- Close links have also been developed with Salholme and Teesmouth Nature Reserve through e.g. staff information training courses which

enable them to pass information to visitors about accommodation, attractions, and facilities in Hartlepool and Seaton Carew. Seaton Carew has seen increasing benefits from these links.

- 3.13 In addition the Council continues to support and promote events at Seaton Carew including the annual firework display, the Marina - Seaton 5k Road Race, the Midnight Walk (Breast Cancer awareness) and the annual Golf Festival which involves the Courses at Seaton Carew, Hartlepool and Redcar.
- 3.14 All general marketing activity was backed up by a presence on the website, through www.visitnortheastengland.com, www.visitteesvalley.co and www.destinationhartlepool.com. These three websites are all driven by the regional destination management system, *desti.ne*, (www.tourismnortheast.co.uk/site/desti.ne) which allows individual product information to feature on all three websites and also to provide the function to interlink the information with the national website, www.visitengland.com. Therefore Seaton Carew has a strong and varied presence through individual product information, events and also general editorial.
- 3.15 The changes in public finances have, however, led to the loss of ONE North East Tourism Marketing function and also the loss of visitTeesvalley in its previous format. This has also led to a gap in marketing activity with significant investment previously placed in tourism marketing being lost.
- 3.16 Continuation of previous activities is being considered with Tees Valley Unlimited over the next 12 months. The main focus is web based activity as the contract for *desti.ne* finishes in March 2012 and work is ongoing across the region to identify how websites will be taken forward in the future and the best solution in particular, for Hartlepool.

Work undertaken with businesses at Seaton Carew to obtain financial contributions.

- 3.17 Securing contributions from businesses towards regeneration and improvement schemes in areas such as Hartlepool and Seaton Carew has traditionally proven difficult due the marginal nature of many of the businesses. In terms of general public realm works it is often difficult to persuade business owners of the direct benefits associated with such work and there is also the problem of equitability if some business is not prepared to contribute jointly towards the cost of a scheme.
- 3.18 There has been more success in securing private sector investment in their own properties, through commercial area and Heritage Economic Regeneration (HERS) Schemes where the provision of grants have led to substantial physical and visual improvements to properties within the core commercial area of Seaton Carew.
- 3.19 As part of the second phase of sea defence improvements (from Station Lane southwards) the Environment Agency will be looking to secure some

contribution towards the cost of these works, particularly where the sea defence improvements will facilitate private sector investment. A potential contribution may come from Northumbria Water as the works will help protect the treatment works adjacent to the fairground site. Additional contributions may be required to be made on the back of the development proposals for The Front.

- 3.20 With specific reference to the Power Station, whilst the company are known to have made some contributions to community groups, and provided sponsorship to the Tall Ships event, it is not known that there have been any direct contributions made towards investment in the Seaton Carew resort. Looking ahead, however, should the proposed replacement nuclear power station be built adjacent to the existing facility, there is the potential to gain substantial resources from the company developing the facility. From discussions with authorities who have schemes which are more advanced than the Hartlepool proposal the power companies have agreed to set up community funds totalling several million pounds to help mitigate impacts and provide community benefits.

Promotion of Seaton Carew's Natural Attractions

- 3.21 Information on how sites such as Saltholme, the dunes and SSSI sites are promoted is set out in the general promotion section above. Media such as the Destination Hartlepool website, provide information on the attractions along the coast, and the networking linked to Saltholme informs visitors about adjacent sites. These are well utilised by specialist groups such as bird watchers. Saltholme as a national attraction with excellent and developing facilities attracts visitors from across the country and in its first year received 100,000 visitors. The latest estimates indicate that 88,217 people visited Saltholme in 2009.
- 3.22 Naturally the other sites referred to in the previous paragraph do not benefit from the profile of Saltholme as a flagship RSPB facility and the number of people visiting these locations is much lower. These sites are likely to remain more 'low key' complementary attractions which help define the nature of Seaton Carew. The Council has recently come together with Stockton Borough Council and other partner organisations including government agencies eg Natural England and conservation organisations such as RSPB, to form the North Tees Natural Network. The Network links a number of sites of nature conservation value stretching from the Transporter Bridge to Seaton Carew. Key aims of the group are to promote and publicise these areas whilst showcasing how an area that is internationally important for wildlife can be an equally valuable resource for people sitting in harmony with industrial expansion and redevelopment. The Network will also endeavour to secure resources to enhance access and improve facilities for visitors for these areas, and this is also an aspiration of the Council. Another group, the Tees Valley Biodiversity Partnership has produced a wildlife guide which promotes sites such as Saltholme, Seaton Common, Teesmouth and Greatham Beck including guidance on how to get there and what to see.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members of the Forum note the content of the report and where appropriate seek clarification.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background paper was used in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum, Foreshore Management presentation, 19th January 2011
- (ii) Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum, Foreshore Management Services, 23rd February 2011.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

23rd March 2011



Report of: Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods

Subject: FORESHORE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide further information as requested at the last meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum to assist Members with the investigation into the provision of Foreshore Management Services

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall receiving a report at the last meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum in relation to Foreshore Management Services. The report focused upon potential service delivery arrangements and possible responses to budgetary pressures with respect to
- Beach Safety and Lifeguards,
 - Paddling Pools and
 - Beach Cleaning
- 2.2 Further information was requested regarding the provision of paddling pools and beach cleaning arrangements and access with respect to vehicles on the beach.

3. HEADLAND PADDLING POOL

- 3.1 The Block Sands Paddling Pool refurbishment completed in July 2004, originally funded by Single Regeneration Board (SRB) monies, was designed and delivered by White, Young Green consultants. The total cost of the scheme, including hard works, railings, pool, fountains, pump room, and play area and CCTV was £480,880. Lumsden and Carroll were contracted to carry out the works.
- 3.2 Due to problems with access restrictions for PD Ports in the original design, HBC Building Consultancy and Engineering Consultancy were asked to undertake remedial works to allow for full maintenance access. The remedial contract was let for £24,645 with an additional amount for landscape architecture, civil engineer and structural engineer fees.

- 3.3 The details of the padding pool maintenance, cleansing and water quality systems were debated at the last meeting, however as a reminder the Headland paddling pool has a bromine dosing system and a filtration system, whereas the Seaton paddling pool is dosed with calcium hypochlorite and tested twice a day and dosed as required, it also has a ozonator. The Block Sands paddling pool dosing system has been found to be inadequate and as such is manually dosed twice a day. The pool is emptied, cleaned and refilled once a week which can take up to six hours.
- 3.4 The ongoing revenue costs of providing a paddling pool service to the residents of the Headland and Seaton Carew and to the visitors and tourists, are identified in the table below. The table includes all maintenance costs except costs for checking and cleaning which averages around 12 – 13 hours per week of Officer Time (Lifeguard, Playground inspector and the Beach Safety officer):-

Year	Headland (£)	Seaton Carew (£)
2005/06	10,593	9,300
2006/07*	2,599	15,010
2007/08	10,027	2,902
2008/09**	5,665	395
2009/10	7,542	481
2010/11	3,598	4,309

* cost of supply new Ozonator £12,575

** Assignment of deaning duties from DSO to Beach Safety & Playground Inspection team resulted in efficiency savings in 2008/9.

- 3.5 There is a problem with the sub standard sub base, causing movement and the surface at the top to crack and blister requiring repairs which can take a couple of days. This is due to a pressure build up of water on the sea wall next to the Block Sands Paddling Pool, causing the water to filter through the wall and under the paddling pool thus causing the movement which then causes the blistering and cracks of the pool base, the water entering the sea wall in this manner is apparently normal. Additional problems have occurred with the underlying pipe work, i.e. the pipe work from the plant room which the pool water runs through to the pool inlet collapsed because of the movement which resulted with flow problems to the pool.
- 3.6 As far as any future remedial works, starting with the resurfacing around the pool area i.e. resurfaced with a more appropriate, sustainable, long-term material which could cost in the region of £110,000 including fees. The blue surfacing may look attractive when first laid but experience has shown this surfacing is unsuitable for the area due to the close proximity to the sea. There are a variety of different materials which have been used for foundation / sub base purposes in this area and remedial action would include the excavation and replacement of the pool base with a flexible material to withstand the movement. To replace the pool, including addressing the jointing issues to the base and the perimeter stonework the costs would be in the region of £125,000; replacement of lighting £5,000; and

general repair/repainting works circa £10,000. For the purposes of this investigation the Scrutiny Forum should look at replacement costs of £250,000 to replace the Block Sands Paddling Pool

- 3.7 The replacement of the pool however would not remove all the maintenance issues associated with the site, as the considerable diversity of materials underlying the site would still remain. This would seem to be causing differential settlement across the area resulting in surface cracking, movement of walls and damage to pipe work. Other issues associated with the extreme site conditions of the paddling pool (proximity to the sea, exposure, etc.) would also remain. A complete refurbishment is estimated to cost over £1 million; this would include significant excavation works to remove areas of made-up ground with replacement with a more homogenous, appropriate material. The quantities involved and the waste removal costs are likely to be substantial and there will also be potential for any such works to impact on adjacent areas of surfacing, walls, steps, ramps, etc. This would effectively involve the removal of the paddling pool and its complete reconstruction including for a new base with expansion joints, etc. and new surfacing for the entire area. The exact nature of the works required would have to be determined following detailed site investigation and design work by the Building Consultancy and Engineering Consultancy.

4. NORTH SANDS – BEACH ACCESS & COASTAL EROSION

- 4.1 For over five years there have been high levels of anti social behaviour (ASB) and criminal activity on the old Steetly/ Britmag site, North West of the Headland. These activities have included high levels of flytipping, damage to the existing public footpath amounting to over £12,000 of repair costs plus officer time. Damage to the existing vehicle barrier at Brus Tunnel has amounted to repair costs in the region of £10,000 and theft of the site owner's property and also the perimeter fence line and old railway tracks.
- 4.2 More recently there has been damage to the dunes and beach area behind the site, North Sands, caused by illegal off-road vehicles including 4x4's driving up and down the dune slopes causing irreparable damage to the micro-ecosystems that have established over many years. There have also been a number of incidents whereby illegal vehicle traffic has used the public footpath. This has resulted in conflict with the legal users as well as Council officers.
- 4.3 The Local Authority does not have the powers to stop vehicles or prosecute drivers for what is actually a motoring offence, specifically the Highways Act 1980, 'driving a vehicle more than 15 metres from a highway'; this is enforced by the Police. Council officers are unaware of anyone being stopped or spoken to regarding 'off road' offences.
- 4.4 North Sands does not have any restrictions in the way of Dog Control Orders and has always been promoted as an area where dogs can run freely. As

such, enforcement patrols have been very limited and are only carried out as a reactive/ responsive service to any issues regarding dogs.

- 4.5 There has been a request from Natural England (NE) to place a seasonal 'On Leads' Order on the section of North Sands adjacent the old Steetley site. This was requested in order to protect the SSSI, as NE claim 'dogs off leads' were the main cause of disruption to the protected birds. The proposed Order will be considered as part of the overall town-wide review into Dog Control Orders. Initial consultations with residents on the Headland have revealed contempt for any such restriction being introduced.
- 4.6 The Shore Management Plan (2007) suggests, at the southern end of Hart Warren the coast has been taken slightly further forward by reclamation south of Spion Kop Cemetery, where it has been reinforced by gabions, and into the northern section of the Headland; by a wall and revetment. The coast is further held forward by the effect of the pipes in front of the Britmag works.
- 4.7 Without defence this whole area would erode further back more sharply than the coast to the north. The forward position of the coast to either side gives some protection to the area of the Cemetery and so under this unconstrained situation this would also suffer erosion. The main Headland defences are understood to be constructed in front of the old cliffs. There is significant pressure on this area to erode and it has been the presence of the harder cliff material which has resisted this. It is unlikely that even in the unconstrained scenario that erosion over the next 100 years would break through the ridge of land to the lower lying flood plain behind.
- 4.8 The area along this coast is a SPA, SSSI and NNR, Natural England have requested no intervention to any erosion. A further study is currently being carried which will help form the overall strategy for this area. **Appendix A** identifies provides ownership details of the North Sands Beach.
- 4.9 There is a potential opportunity to create a more secure environment and discussions have commenced with Network Rail to reduce access through the Brus Tunnel to that of pedestrian use only and enable NR to access their property in a safer and more convenient manner. The attached map (**Appendix B**) identifies the old access route to the old junction box, the existing routes used by the Network Rail (NR) Staff and contractors and the proposed route that would be created from Old Cemetery Road directly into the Network Rail (NR) property. NR thus would have exclusive control of the new access point which would also address the issue regarding non suitable vehicle access to the beach.
- 4.10 The public footpath and its users would not be in conflict with illegal users or NR staff/contractors and would be safe to use. This would make the site a safer place to walk through. The proposals would also provide the Council with the opportunity to improve and enhance the entrance's and surrounds of the Brus Tunnel/Horseshoe Tunnel, and enable to Council to promote the history of the tunnel and the railway.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members of the Forum note the content of the report and where appropriate seek clarification.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background paper was used in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum, Foreshore Management presentation, 19th January 2011
- (ii) Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum, Foreshore Management Services, 23rd February 2011.

