

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Thursday, 31 March 2011

at 3.00 pm

in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:

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

Resident Representatives:

Ted Jackson, John Maxwell and Angie Wilcox

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 3 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 Draft Economic Assessment – *Economic Development Manager*

7.2 Six Monthly Monitoring of agreed Regeneration and Planning Services
Scrutiny Forum's Recommendations – *Scrutiny Support Officer*

Scrutiny Investigation into Services Available to male Victims of Domestic Violence

7.3 Additional Information - *Scrutiny Support Officer*

7.4 Consideration of Draft Final Report - Chair of the Regeneration and Planning
Services *Scrutiny Forum*

8. **ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN**

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

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Date of Next Meeting to be confirmed.

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

3 February 2011

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

Present:

Councillor: Kevin Cranney (In the Chair)

Councillors: Allan Barclay, Rob Cook, Alison Lilley, Trevor Rogan and Ray Wells.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2 (ii), Councillor Mary Fleet was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Marjorie James.

Resident Representatives:

Ted Jackson, John Maxwell and Angie Wilcox.

Also Present:

Andy Powell, Director of Housing Services, Housing Hartlepool
Lesley Gibson, Harbour
Christine Goodman, Christine Fergus and Mandy Twidale, Victim Support
Inspector Mike Cane, Cleveland Police

Officers: Brian Neale, Community Safety Manager
Lisa Oldroyd, Anti-Social Behaviour Research Officer
Elaine Hind, Scrutiny Support Officer
James Walsh, Scrutiny Support Officer
Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

60. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Steve Gibbon and Marjorie James.

61. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

62. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2011

Confirmed.

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

None.

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

None.

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

None.

66. Scrutiny Investigation into Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Violence – Setting the Scene
(Scrutiny Support Officer/Community Safety Manager)

The report set the scene for the Forum's investigation into the 'Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Violence'.

In addition, the Community Safety Manager provided a detailed and comprehensive presentation which gave an overview of partnership working arrangements in place to tackle domestic violence, the responsibilities agencies have towards male victims of domestic violence and how services were currently provided. The report also included written evidence which had been received by the Child and Adult Services Department in relation to the social service and youth offending provision.

A discussion ensued which included the following issues:

- (i) A Member sought clarification on the statistics in the presentation as there were figures for male victims aged 17-24 and 38-45 but nothing for the age group in between. The Community Safety Manager indicated that there were statistics available for this age group but the presentation was highlighting the greatest prevalence.
- (ii) A Member expressed surprise that the number of male victims were as high as they were and acknowledged that the true number could be higher due to the perceived stigma of reporting incidents. This was acknowledged by the Community Safety Manager.
- (iii) A resident representative sought clarification on when incidents become classed as crimes. Inspector Cane confirmed that there were criteria in place for crimes and all incidents were measured against that. For information, around 25% of all incidents become recorded crimes.

Recommended

The presentations and discussions that followed would be used to inform the investigation.

67. Scrutiny Investigation into Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Violence – Evidence from Key Stakeholders *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

A number of key stakeholders had been invited to attend the meeting to provide evidence in relation to the investigation into the 'Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Violence'.

A Detective Inspector from Cleveland Police provided the Forum with an update on the work of the Vulnerability Unit of Cleveland Police. It was noted that this Unit brought together the functions of safeguarding re domestic violence, child abuse and vulnerable adults. All domestic violence reports were classed as a high priority and always resulted in a police visit and it was noted that there were between 200-250 per month in Hartlepool with around 2500 calls every year to different addresses. The Detective Inspector confirmed that all reports of domestic violence were dealt with in relation to the risk level and gender played no part in the prioritising of how reports were dealt with, although Officers were sensitive to embarrassment factors.

The highest risk cases were dealt with via a Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and of the 155 cases dealt with in this way during 2010, three were male victims, however in 2011 there have been 2 cases involving male victims both of which were the victim of stabbings.

A further discussion ensued in which the following issues were raised:

- (i) A Member sought clarification on the use of headcams by police officers. The Detective Inspector confirmed that headcams were utilised for a period of time but there were some issues with reliability for regular useage. Police Officers attending any incidents had access to digital cameras and the photographs were kept with any police statements or observations taken. The Community Safety Manager added that discussions were ongoing in relation to the provision of funding from the Community Safety Partnership for headcams at such a time as the equipment was proven reliable and provided quality evidence for submission to Court.
- (ii) A Member sought clarification on whether the perpetrator was ever breathalysed as it had been noted that drugs and alcohol abuse often played a significant factor in incidents of domestic violence. The Detective Inspector confirmed that Police Officers had no authority to breathalyse anyone unless it was for a motoring offence. The Police were usually able to identify the influence of alcohol on the perpetrator

although this proved more difficult in relation to drug abuse. Generally around 35-40% of incidents of domestic violence had alcohol involved.

- (iii) A Member noted the publicity campaigns used to highlight the affects of alcohol abuse and commented that they were all generally aimed at domestic violence against women. It was suggested that a broader campaign be examined as a way of encouraging male victims to come forward. The Detective Inspector indicated that there was no reason not to do that but that it was a matter for the Safer Hartlepool Partnership. The Community Safety Manager added that the use of different illustrations may demonstrate the impact on male victims in a more sensitive way. The representative from Harbour commented on a recent poster campaign which included a man and a women both sat together and tied on a chair and this was aimed at male and female victims, but it was suggested that this may have been too subtle an approach.
- (iv) In response to a question from a Member, the Detective Inspector acknowledged that there had been an increase in alcohol abuse by females and it was recognised that raising awareness of this issue would help deal with it.

The representative from Harbour Support Services provided Members with an overview of the type of support provided to both victims and perpetrators of domestic violence for both males and females and provided a case study detailing how Harbour had helped a male victim regain access to his house and children. Members were asked to note that a lot of the work undertaken by Harbour was with young male victims suffering abuse from their father or their mum's partner. This was often as a result of seeing their mother abused by that person also. It was noted that housing was a major concern as when a man was re-housed into bed and breakfast accommodation, they were unable to maintain contact with their children. However, there were funded plans being progressed to create supported housing for men in this situation. Members were advised that there was a 'drop-off' rate in reporting after the first incident and Harbour were working in partnership with the Police to visit victims, both male and females, of domestic abuse as soon as practical after the incident.

The following issues and points of clarification were raised:

- (v) A Member sought clarification on whether mental abuse was reported as well as violence. The representative from Harbour commented that they often see victims who were not yet known to the Police with some issues being about different types of abuse.
- (vi) In response to a number of questions from a Member, the representative from Harbour provided the following clarification. Despite the challenges of the future in relation to funding, it was important that raising awareness of the services and support provided by Harbour was a key issue and it had been suggested that a telephone helpline be created and promoted for men to use. In addition, more partnership working was the way forward in maximising the funding available and this could only be progressed if the commitment and backing of the local authority was demonstrated. Partnership working was already proving

successful with organisations such as the Police, Housing Hartlepool and third sector organisations. However this needed to be built upon and expanded whilst ensuring that all organisations had an understanding of what each organisation can do.

- (vii) A Member referred to the success of the Zero Tolerance campaign and suggested that a similar campaign might be successful for male victims also.

The Director of Housing Services from Housing Hartlepool was in attendance and gave a presentation which detailed the Domestic Abuse Policy adopted by Housing Hartlepool and an extract from the tenancy agreement signed by all Housing Hartlepool tenants. He added that any kind of domestic violence was always treated seriously and responded to with a multi-agency approach and indicated that most referrals of domestic violence were made by the Police. There were a number of courses of action that could be taken including referrals to specialist support and target hardening. The Director of Housing Services confirmed that during the last three years, only two reports of male victims of domestic violence had been received and dealt with. He added that dealing with female perpetrators was complex especially if there were children involved as keeping the children within their home was key to their welfare. Members were asked to note that it was difficult to identify domestic violence between two males, ie father and son or siblings as the issue was very much kept within families.

- (viii) In response to a question, the Director of Housing Services confirmed that there was a reporting line available 24 hours a day with the first point of contact usually being via the Tenancy Enforcement Team.
- (ix) A Member questioned whether there was any support available from Housing Hartlepool for people in privately owned/rented accommodation. The Director of Housing Services confirmed that Housing Hartlepool's main aim was to manage the 7,000 properties within Hartlepool but confirmed that if any non-tenant was affecting Housing Hartlepool tenants, action would be taken against them. It was noted that the Housing Needs Advice Service could provide support in relation to re-housing and the Housing Options Centre in Park Road was a contact point for this service.

There were several representatives from Victim Support in attendance and they gave Members an overview of the types of services and support they provided as a national charity. Although it was acknowledged that they did not specialise in domestic violence, support was available should anyone request it. Through experience, Victim Support identified that male victims were often embarrassed about admitting they had suffered through domestic violence and one of the main aims of Victim Support was to ensure that people were signposted to the most appropriate agency or support.

- (x) Similarly to Housing Hartlepool, the representatives from Victim Support confirmed that the majority of their referrals were via the Police and it was recognised that increasing awareness of the services available from Victim Support was a key issue to the effectiveness of the organisation.

- (xi) It was also acknowledged that increased partnership working with other voluntary and community groups including Harbour would help provide a more joined up approach thus enabling any specific support requirements to be dealt with quickly and efficiently.
- (xii) In response to a question, a representative from Victim Support confirmed that without the support of volunteers being available to provide guidance and advice to victims, the organisation would struggle to maintain its current level of service.
- (xiii) The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services commented that domestic violence was an extremely complex issue and in relation to male victims also affected mothers and sons, fathers and sons and gay partners. It was suggested that the Forum may wish to give consideration to the role of schools in teaching young people that abuse of any kind is not acceptable and part of normal behaviour, possibly as part of the citizenship curriculum. The representative from Harbour confirmed that investment in prevention and early intervention was the key to safeguarding children.

There were a number of issues discussed and the Chair suggested that the issue of domestic violence be considered as a key investigation topic for the work programme for the Forum for 2011/12 as it was such a huge issue.

Recommended

The presentations and discussions that followed would be used to inform the Forum's investigation.

68. Scrutiny Investigation into Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Violence – Durham County Council Scrutiny Investigation into Domestic Abuse (Scrutiny Support Officer)

The Scrutiny Support Officer presented a report which included the recommendations and action plan resulting from Durham County Council's 2007 scrutiny investigation 'A Hidden Truth.....? A Scrutiny Report about Domestic Abuse in County Durham.

In response to a question it was noted that figures provided in Hartlepool indicate that average proportion of male victims reporting domestic violence was 18% which was less than the 26% national average. It was confirmed that funding was gender neutral and it would be difficult to estimate the ration of funding for female and male victims.

Recommended

The information provided by Durham County Council would be used to inform the Forum's investigation.

69. Scrutiny Investigation into Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Violence – Information from Regional and National Organisations *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The Scrutiny Support Officer confirmed that information from regional and national organisations had been circulated for consideration in relation to the investigation into the 'Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Violence'. The information provided had been received from Mankind Initiative and The Men's Network. Two local case studies were also circulated which had been received as a result of the publicity surrounding the investigation.

Members noted that there was a clear issue identified during the discussions and that was about raising awareness of the kind of support available to people and how to access this support, especially for male victims. One of the key issues of progressing this was to increase the partnership working of all the support groups across the community and voluntary sector and ensure the correct signposting was in place.

The Community Safety Manager commented that all the support available fit within the banner of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership which was responsible for community engagement and raising awareness under the crime and community safety banner.

Although it did not form part of this discussion or investigation a resident who was in attendance wished to raise the issue of the Civic Centre frontage as he felt that the state of repair of the steps leading to the building were in a dangerous state of repair.

Recommended

That the information received and discussions that followed would inform the Forum's investigation.

70. Issues Identified from Forward Plan

None.

71. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

None.

Meeting concluded at 5.05 pm

CHAIR

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

31 March 2011



Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: DRAFT ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek any final comments on Hartlepool's Economic Assessment prior to submitting to Cabinet in April for final approval.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 In 2007, the Review of the Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration ('SNR') proposed that all upper-tier and unitary local authorities carry out a local Economic Assessment which will outline economic development and regeneration matters. Included within the SNR proposal was a commitment to consult with all key partners on a comprehensive assessment which will compliment and underpin the statements and targets of local areas such as:
1. Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS);
 2. Local Development Framework;
 3. Local and Multi-Area Agreement targets; and
 4. Will assist in helping the authority contribute to the development of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES).
- 2.2 The Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) endorsed this new statutory Economic Assessment duty as it believes that it will 'add value to existing arrangements and practices'. The ***Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill (2009)*** now places a statutory duty with relevant local authorities expected to complete an assessment by April 2011 which will set out the economic vitality and conditions of their particular area.
- 2.3 Hartlepool's Economic Assessment will provide the necessary evidence base to increase knowledge and better understand local economic conditions and to analyse how the town makes a significant contribution to

wider sub-regional and regional functional markets. By understanding this wider scope of economic activity across multiple boundaries it will provide an insight into the opportunities that the town could maximise and will also reflect the influence that global market forces have at a local level.

- 2.4 The guidance is quite clear that the Economic Assessment is an evidence base and not a strategy in itself, however the assessment will underpin the development of strategies that respond to economic conditions faced by an area. Hartlepool's Economic Assessment follows the context of the Tees Valley Wide Economic Assessment which was completed by Tees Valley Unlimited. This completed assessment will provide the golden thread between the above stated strategies and the emerging Economic and Regeneration Strategy which will respond to this needs assessment and which will in particular identify:

- The authority's capacity and prioritisation in relation to economic development and regeneration interventions.
- Improved interventions to tackle worklessness, skills and enterprise initiatives
- Enhanced ways of working to develop commercial activity and business infrastructure;
- How it can improve local authority engagement with private sector partners; and;
- How the town will respond to the eventual upturn and strengthen jobs and business growth in the long term through sustainable measures.

- 2.5 Hartlepool's Economic Assessment has been designed to follow a clear and concise process which compliments good practice guidance as outlined within the Improvement and Development Agency and Planning Advisory Service document, 'How to do a Local Economic Assessment' (October 2009).

- 2.6 The development of the Assessment is currently undergoing extensive consultation as prescribed in the legislation and Economic Development is currently undertaking this exercise with key consultees include the Economic Forum, North East Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small Business, other business groups, voluntary and community sector, Government Departments and educational establishments.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 Hartlepool's Economic Assessment has largely been undertaken in-house by the Economic Development Team with Durham University Business School assisting with developing the key findings and identifying potential growth sectors. The Hartlepool Economic Assessment will adopt the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy visions and the Jobs & Economy themed aims.

- **Community Strategy**

‘Hartlepool will be an ambitious, healthy, respectful, inclusive, thriving and outward-looking community, in an attractive and safe environment where everyone is able to realise their potential.’

- **Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy**

‘Continue the regeneration of Hartlepool and ensure that local people, organisations and service providers work together to narrow the gap between the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the borough, so that in the future, no one is seriously disadvantaged by where they live’

- **Local Area Agreement Jobs & Economy Theme**

‘Develop a more enterprising, vigorous and diverse local economy that will attract new investment, enable local enterprise and entrepreneurs to be globally competitive and create more employment opportunities for local people.’

3.2 The scope of the Economic Assessment will be to undertake a robust and comprehensive review of Hartlepool's industrial and economic landscape. The Assessment will consider the geographical area of the Hartlepool district and will pay particular attention to the changing industrial and business base, the demographics of the local population, skills requirements for the future, the regeneration of the area and the natural environment.

3.3 The Assessment will provide an analysis of the current factors which impact on the social, economic and environment development of the town. The assessment includes a strength, weakness, opportunities, and threat (SWOT) analysis against the key area of ‘Business, People and Place’ and will identify where there are gaps in knowledge on specialist areas for example ‘skills requirements of employers.’ The key findings from the Assessment will form the underpinning evidence base for the development of the Economic and Regeneration Strategy.

4. KEY FINDINGS

4.1 Whilst much of the document contains factual statistical information the development of the key findings and SWOT analysis represent the main thrust of the Assessment that will inform the development of the Economic and Regeneration Strategy. These elements are summarised below.

Business

- During the last decade business stock has increased substantially, out performing the region and sub region.
- During the recession business birth rate has fallen in line with other areas and business.

- Despite much improved business base and births there still remains an enterprise gap with the UK.
- The overall employment rate improved strongly to 2006 but has since declined particularly since the start of the current economic climate
- Manufacturing jobs have declined but the sector remains relatively strong in the town and should benefit from Government policy which aims to stimulate this sector
- The town is relatively dependent on public sector employment and budget cuts will no doubt impact on Hartlepool's economic performance.
- The knowledge sector is under represented in the town and difficult to develop but opportunities exist for commuting out .However the town is well represented in knowledge driven manufacturing and this represents Hartlepool's main opportunity to develop knowledge driven business. Some success has been achieved with new start up such as Hart Biologicals, inward investments such as JDR Cables and indigenous smes' such as Exwold Technologies.
- Productivity is relatively low which may bear out the above evidence on knowledge driven , high added value business and at the same time a reflection of the high level of non economically active residents.
- Key issues for business include global economic conditions, public sector budget cuts, access to finance, availability of skilled workforce, absenteeism and aging workforce particularly in process and engineering sectors.
- Growth sectors include nuclear, offshore oil and gas, offshore wind, low carbon, high value added engineering and manufacturing, process industries and service sectors including hospitality, tourism and retail. Construction sector has generally been strong in the last decade but has suffered during the recession, however the sector is beginning to show signs of recovery. In addition the Health and Social Care sector may present growth opportunities in future years.
- The voluntary and community is facing a major shift from grant aided to income generation and this will be particularly challenging, however future opportunities may exist through the Big Society initiative and devolved health care budgets.

People

- Hartlepool's population has seen some growth mainly in older age groups and this may have significant implications for the future economic prosperity of the town. The BME community has also grown to 1.9% of the population.
- Unemployment measured by JSA fell to an all time low of 3.8% but has risen steadily and has now reached 7%
- Youth unemployment remains a key issue for the town with 1.185 young people unemployed however up to 1,900 young people may be classed as economically inactive. Although youth unemployment remains a key concern in some instances Hartlepool has often out performed other areas.

- Just over 6,200 adults claim incapacity benefit, the majority [4,080] have been claiming over 5 years. With Government policy drives to increase employment rates significant issues will exist to get residents work ready.
- In June 2010 616 unfilled vacancies were advertised by JCP [representing around 30% of all vacancies]. This represents around 51 unemployed residents per job vacancy and demonstrates the current lack of opportunities for employment.
- GCSE performance has markedly increased and is above the regional average. However achievements in science related subjects is relatively poor and this could negatively impact on the potential future labour supply for knowledge driven manufacturing sectors. In addition the proportion of 16 year olds studying and attaining level 2 is well above the national rate. However higher skills attainment remains relatively low. Overall there is clear progress in developing a more skilled future labour supply and these educational attainments at school need to be built upon to drive forward higher skills level attainment in future years.
- Skills levels among the working age population steadily increased from 2000 to 2007. However this improvement has stagnated since. Level 3 and above attainment is critical in developing a knowledge driven manufacturing sector and future issues arising out of changes to the funding of HE provision will present challenges. There is also a need to engage more smes' within the training system to help drive up productivity and competitiveness.
- Skills needs in sectors incorporate general employability skills and also professional, managerial, technical, high level engineering and ICT.
- There is a strong need for pre entry programmes as many of labour force lack experience.
- Key sectors such as nuclear and renewables require similar labour force characteristics and there is a need for technical, craft and engineering. There is a risk if local companies do not train staff to higher levels that business opportunities in these sectors will be lost to international and national large employers.
- In respect of knowledge driven manufacturing it is critical to develop HE attainment in the current and future labour force.
- The process industry is relatively strong but suffers from an ageing workforce and there is a clear need to promote the industry as a good career choice and also develop more apprentice opportunities.
- Leisure, hospitality and tourism is dominated by smes' and there is a need to develop management and customer skills with few employers engaging fully in training programmes. There is a need to identify training opportunities and promoting to the sectors.
- In addition skilled food preparation staff are in short supply however HCFC is building up its capacity in this area and has been supported by Economic Development through the "Taste Of" initiative.
- Retail sector issues are similar to the above with management and customer service skills being particularly important. Skillsmart Location Model could be used to develop the sector.
- Health and social care is likely to grow in line with an ageing population. Minimum qualification levels will mean expanding the apprenticeships

and HCFE is responding by increasing the number of courses and relevant qualifications.

- Construction is forecast to grow slowly but there is a need to replenish the workforce over time and there will be a specific need to train residents in new techniques particularly related to the low carbon economy.
- Voluntary and community sector issues include moving towards a more commercially based approach and therefore the development of business skills will be important for this sector. In addition the move to the Work Programme will need new approaches and the Council is working on consortium bids to deliver subcontracted activities from Prime Providers.

Place

- Future regeneration activities are centred around key spatial areas including the Southern Business Zone, The Innovation and Skills Quarter, Victoria Harbour in respect of offshore wind and tourism opportunities at the Headland and Seaton Carew. The programmes require substantial financial resource and at this stage new solutions may need implementing due to the lack of public funding.
- Wynyard also offers economic benefits and to date this has been largely private sector driven and should provide business and employment opportunities for local residents.
- There is a limited range of high quality business premises that is suitable for modern business needs particularly small start up businesses and expanding SMEs'. This is largely borne out by the continued high occupation levels at Hartlepool Enterprise Centre and the Innovation Centre at Queens Meadow Business Park.
- This issue is partly being addressed by the Innovation Centre extension and possible development at the former Crown Buildings site in the ISQ.
- However if the business base is to continue growing appropriate business infrastructure needs to be developed further especially within the Southern Business Zone. The use of broadband by businesses and residents is essential in maintaining and increasing economic performance. The speed and availability is generally good and should significantly improve by the Government's pledged introduction of superfast lines. The retail stock has reasonable occupancy levels and there are opportunities to further develop retail through initiatives such as the "Indoor Market". In terms of tourism there may be opportunities to develop further by increasing day visitors as families cut back on expensive holidays. With possible improvements to the visitor economy infrastructure there is an opportunity to develop a critical mass of attractions.
- Housing is forecast to grow that will be partly driven by the need for single person households. Demand for new homes exceeds supply and due to the demise of the mixed development plan at Victoria Harbour additional housing land is required that will provide a range of housing options including executive housing to support the development of the business market.

- Housing market renewal programmes is important to ensure decent modern housing for local residents.
- Rising costs of energy mean that more efficient housing is needed incorporating new technologies such as photo voltaic cells.
- Improving connectivity both locally and externally is important to support economic performance. If local residents need to take advantage of employment opportunities in the region and sub region better access is required. The proposed Tees Valley Metro will be a key improvement to assist in the mobility of local labour.
- Maintaining and improving national and international transport links are important in developing the indigenous base but also in attracting high quality inward investment.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 That the Forum advises the Portfolio Holder of any additional comments and feedback on the Draft Economic Assessment prior to submission to Cabinet on the 4 April 2011 for final endorsement.

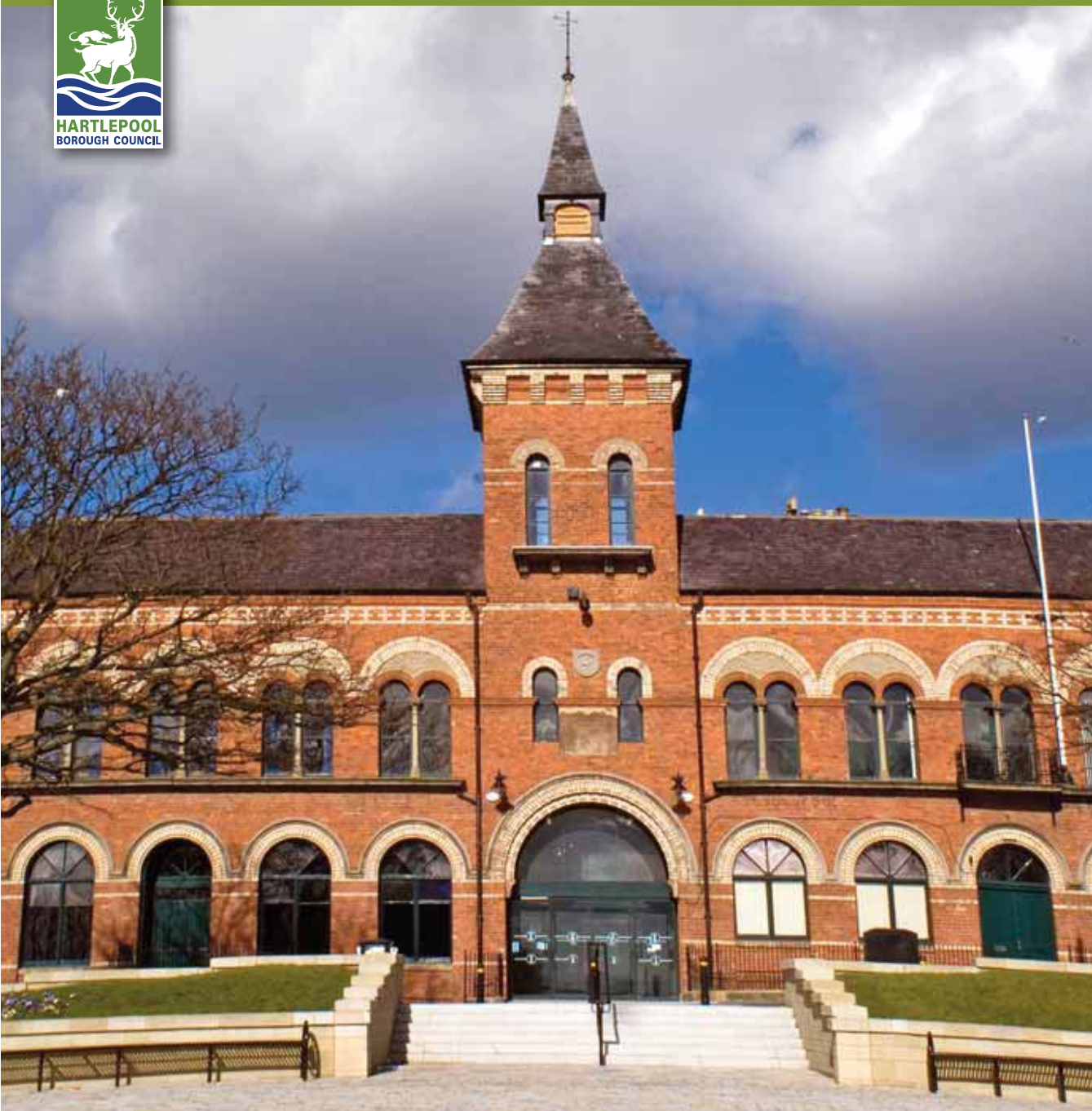
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Executive Summary is contained in the attached **Appendix 1** and the full document is available upon request.

Hartlepool Economic Assessment – Executive Summary 2010/11







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1.0 Introduction - Councillor Pam Hargreaves - Portfolio Holder for Regeneration & Economic Development

Over the past twelve months, representatives from Hartlepool Borough Council's Economic Development Division have worked closely with key partners to develop the town's first Economic Assessment. This assessment provides a detailed needs analysis of the key drivers that directly, and indirectly, impact on the area's economic capacity and where - dependent on the right conditions - growth may occur in the future.

This assessment has been completed at a time when we are facing major new challenges through shifts in government policy and unprecedented austerity cuts. There is also a growing realisation that the fragility of the global economy may be prolonged and may continue to impact on the local economy, long into the future. Although Hartlepool's economic resilience has been tested in recent times, and it is clear that we should remain cautious, there are exciting opportunities that can be maximised which will bring sustainable social, economic and environmental benefits to the whole town.

Whilst we should always be mindful of these challenges, to achieve the town's longer term ambition and vision will require renewed innovation and determination by all partners. A key element of this assessment is to ensure that all partners from across the public, private and third sector have a full understanding of the economic landscape in which they work and often live in. By developing a comprehensive analysis, which covers all issues which may affect the local economy, the Economic Development Division and its partners have provided the necessary picture in which to create the emerging Economic and Regeneration Strategy (2011-2014).

At its heart, this new strategy will identify the town's key priorities and will show what new infrastructures and improved service-delivery models will need to be implemented to assist the business community and local residents to develop their skills to enter into employment and enhance their aspirations to start up in business.

I would urge all partners to review this 'needs assessment' and contribute to the debate on how best Hartlepool Borough Council and its partners can improve the support available to our business community; continue to improve the revitalisation of our town and advance the economic well-being of all our local residents so that we can remain competitive within a global economy.

2.0 Foreword - Mr Ray Priestman - Chair of the Economic Forum

In 2007, the Review of the Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration ('SNR') proposed that all upper-tier and unitary local authorities carry out a local Economic Assessment which will outline economic development and regeneration matters. Included within the SNR proposal was a commitment to consult with all key partners on a comprehensive assessment which will compliment and underpin the statements and targets of local areas such as:

1. Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS);
2. Local Development Framework;
3. Local and Multi-Area Agreement targets; and
4. Will assist in helping the authority contribute to the development of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES).

The Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) endorsed this new statutory Economic Assessment duty as it believes that it will 'add value to existing arrangements and practices'. The **Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill (2009)** now places a statutory duty with relevant local authorities expected to complete an assessment by April 2011 which will set out the economic vitality and conditions of their particular area.

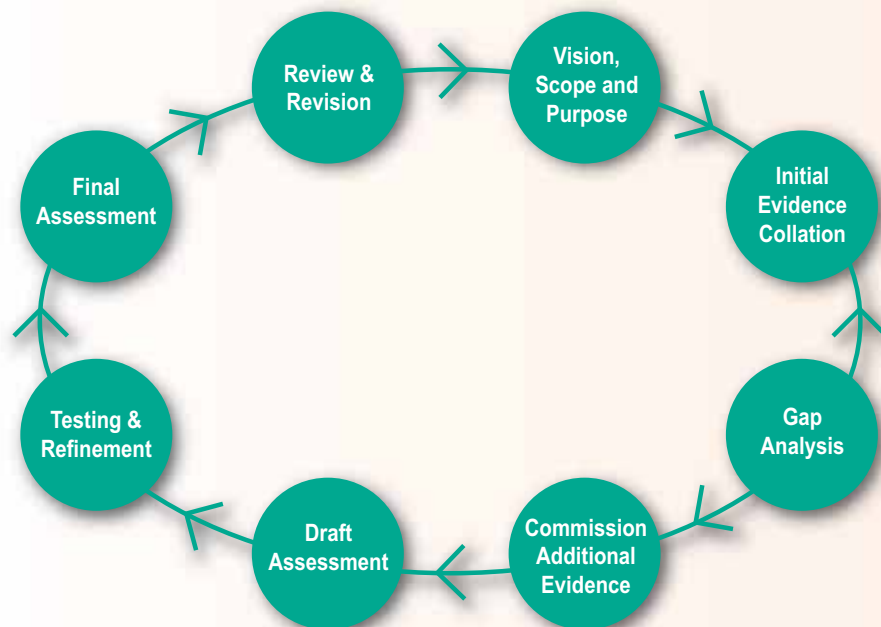
Hartlepool's Economic Assessment will provide the necessary evidence base to increase knowledge and better understand local economic conditions and to analyse how the town makes a significant contribution to wider sub-regional and regional functional markets. By understanding this wider scope of economic activity across multiple boundaries it will provide an insight into the opportunities that the town could maximise and will also reflect the influence that global market forces have at a local level.

Hartlepool's Economic Assessment follows the context of the Tees Valley Wide Economic Assessment which was completed by Tees Valley Unlimited.

This completed assessment will provide the golden thread between the above stated strategies and the emerging Economic Development Strategy which will respond to this needs assessment and which will in particular identify:

- The authority's capacity and prioritisation in relation to economic development and regeneration interventions.
- Improved interventions to tackle worklessness, skills and enterprise initiatives
- Enhanced ways of working to develop commercial activity and business infrastructure;
- How it can improve local authority engagement with private sector partners; and;
- How the town will respond to the eventual upturn and strengthen jobs and business growth in the long term through sustainable measures.

Hartlepool's Economic Assessment has been designed to follow a clear and concise process which compliments good practice guidance as outlined within the Improvement and Development Agency and Planning Advisory Service document, 'How to do a Local Economic Assessment' (October 2009). The diagram below depicts the process for undertaking this comprehensive assessment at each critical stage.



3.0 Vision Scope & Purpose

The Hartlepool Economic Assessment will adopt the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy visions and the Jobs & Economy themed aims.

3.1 Community Strategy

'Hartlepool will be an ambitious, healthy, respectful, inclusive, thriving and outward-looking community, in an attractive and safe environment where everyone is able to realise their potential.'

3.2 Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

'Continue the regeneration of Hartlepool and ensure that local people, organisations and service providers work together to narrow the gap between the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the borough, so that in the future, no one is seriously disadvantaged by where they live'

3.3 Local Area Agreement Jobs & Economy Theme

'Develop a more enterprising, vigorous and diverse local economy that will attract new investment, enable local enterprise and entrepreneurs to be globally competitive and create more employment opportunities for local people.'

The scope of the Economic Assessment will be to undertake a robust and comprehensive review of Hartlepool's industrial and economic landscape. This in depth review will require research into the current baseline position of the local economy in relation to a wide range of issues which will directly or in directly impact on the economic growth and vitality of the area. This assessment will consider the geographical area of the Hartlepool district and will pay particular attention to the changing industrial and business base, the demographics of the local population, skills requirements for the future, the regeneration of the area and the natural environment.

The purpose of the assessment will be to provide an analysis of the current factors which impact on the social, economic and environment development of the town. The assessment will offer a strength, weakness, opportunities, and threat (SWOT) analysis against the key area of 'Business, People and Place' and will identify where there are gaps in knowledge on specialist areas for example 'skills requirements of employers.' The key findings from the Assessment will inform and develop the Economic Strategy.

3.4 Initial Evidence Collation

Initial evidence collation has been produced through detailed reviews of national, regional, sub-regional and local policies and strategies including: -

National

- Voice of Small Business Annual Survey – Federation of Small Business (FSB) – February 2010
- Leitch Review of Skills – Skills Funding Agency (SFA) - December 2006
- National Skills Strategy – Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) – November 2009
- 21st Century Welfare – Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) July 2010
- Universal Credit: Welfare that Works – DWP – November 2010
- Building Bridges to Work: New Approach to Long Term Worklessness – DWP – March 2010
- Skills for Sustainable Growth – SFA – December 2010
- The Cost of Exclusion - Princes Trust – December 2010
- Local Growth – Department for Communities & Local Government (CLG) – November 2010
- Ending Child Poverty in a Changing Economy - Joseph Rowntree Trust - October 2010
- Monitoring Poverty & Social Exclusion - Joseph Rowntree Trust - November 2010
- Britain's Superfast Broadband Future – BIS – December 2010
- Mental Capital & Wellbeing for 21st Century – BIS – October 2008
- Bigger, Better Business: Helping Small Firms Start, Grow and Prosper – BIS – January 2011
- Financing Business Growth – BIS – October 2010

Regional

- Impact of Changing Funding Environment on VCS – Social Futures Institute – March 2008
- Regional Employability Strategy – One Northeast – February 2007
- Regional Tourism Strategy – One Northeast – April 2007
- Enhancing Financial Inclusion in Northeast – One Northeast – September 2009
- Regional Spatial Strategy – One Northeast – May 2007
- Regional Strategy for the Environment – December 2006

Sub Region

- Tees Valley Work and Skills Plan – Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU) – April 2010
- Major Skills Issues in Tees Valley – Social Futures Institute – June 2007
- Tees Valley Business Case – TVU – May 2006
- Tees Valley Economic Assessment – TVU – April 2010
- Development of Social Economy in Tees Valley – Social Futures Institute – September 2004
- Higher Level Skills in the Tees Valley – TVU – May 2010
- Tees Valley Employability Framework – Shared Intelligence – October 2007
- Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy – TVU – August 2007

Local

Strategic Needs Assessment – Hartlepool PCT – October 2009

- Local Transport Plan – Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC) – March 2006
- Community & Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy – HBC – August 2008
- Local Area Agreement – HBC – January 2007
- Local Development Plan – HBC – November 2010
- Children and Young People's Plan – HBC – October 2009
- Child Poverty Strategy – HBC – October 2010
- 14-19 Strategy – HBC – October 2006

To provide a complete picture of the economy researchers have worked closely with leading experts from the public, private and voluntary sector. The assessment has been compiled by working in collaboration with many partners including Hartlepool's Economic Forum, Tees Valley Unlimited and the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS). As the assessment moves into the consultation phase further discussion will provide unique insight into specific areas from a range of diverse experts within their chosen fields. Evidence collation will improve as new lines of enquiry will be developed through consultation with all the major stakeholders.

3.5 GAP Analysis

What this assessment has predominantly outlined is that there remains gaps in knowledge on specific subject areas e.g. the resilience of the economy. Many of the questions raised in producing this assessment identified that the fragility of the global economy was not conducive in being able to make substantiated claims for the short, medium and long term prosperity of the town's economy. Due to the complexity of the global economy and how it will ultimately impact at a local level,

there will be different opinions by forecasters and experts on the findings of this assessment. Where there are proposed gaps in the analysis shown, partners will be invited to consider if there is evidence or where further research is needed.

3.6 Commission Additional Evidence

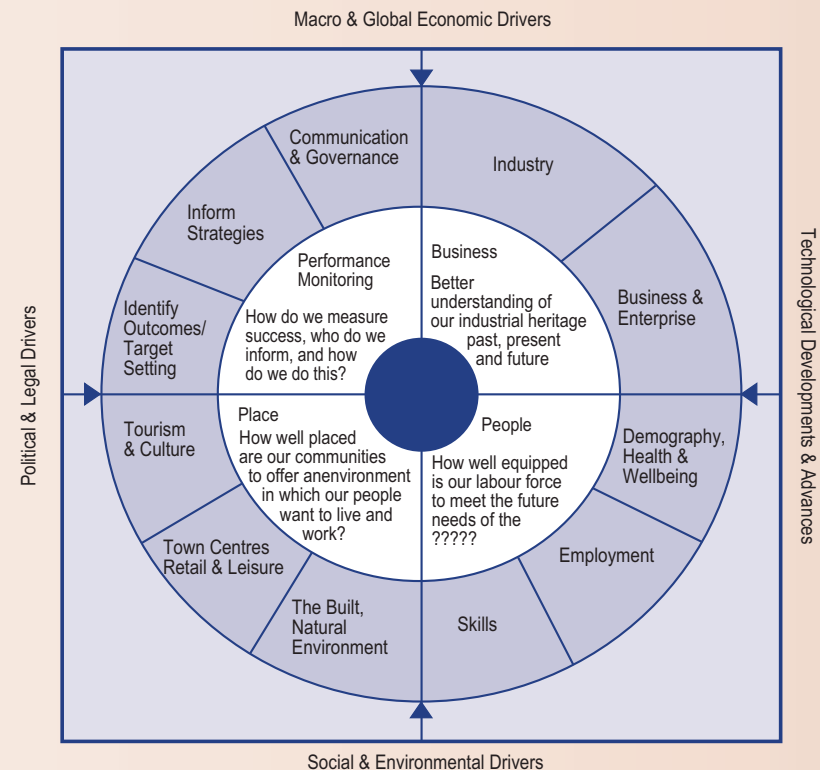
Where the assessment has shown gaps in the analysis, it may be that partners feel it is necessary to commission additional research on specific subjects in which to build a full evidence base. There are clearly gaps in this analysis which will need to be further explored so that a complete economic strategy is developed. There are questions that may be extremely challenging in which to gain a definitive answer, for example why do some communities suffer the effects of third and fourth generation workless households? This type of question whilst important to understand will require resources for the research to be undertaken which will need to consider all elements of a persons lifestyle including health, wellbeing, cultural background, skills, educational attainment, aspiration, ambition and environment. However, these challenges should not be ignored if the full economic picture is to be produced.

3.7 Review and Revision

The economic assessment will be reviewed and refined on a bi-annual basis. The commencement of the next revised economic assessment will be in July 2012 and the process to complete this document will follow the same process as outlined above. The assessment will formulate the Economic Regeneration Strategy for the town.



4.0 Hartlepool Economic Assessment Framework



The aim of Hartlepool's Economic Assessment is to collect and evaluate data relating to local conditions which will improve the evidential base of partners to enhance strategies and operational plans which directly impact on the local area.

This assessment will identify the economic needs of the local area and will also outline where information is not readily available and where further research will be required to allow all partners to truly understand the 'bigger picture'. As shown within the Economic Assessment Framework, the three key areas that will be considered is 'Business, People and Place' and under each heading an in-depth analysis will be undertaken to review the wider influences of a local economy - such as the global economic downturn – which has had a major impact on Hartlepool.

The assessment will provide the necessary baseline of information to ensure that there is more informed dialogue between all partners. Partners will be informing development of future strategies within the town. It is the intention that all partners will be consulted on this assessment so that all views and expertise is acknowledged and their contribution is included within the body of this document.

5.0 Background to Hartlepool

Hartlepool is located on the North East coast within the Tees Valley sub region and in 2009 had a total population of 90,900 people.¹ Of this, the number of working age adults within the town is 57,900 of which 28,600 are male and 29,300 are female and almost a fifth of residents are at or above retirement age.

The town prospered as an industrial centre for many years until the decline in heavy industry such as ship building, steel fabrication and manufacturing in the 1960s and 1970s. Over the past thirty years the town's economic landscape continued to dramatically change with major job losses in these key industrial sectors and a move towards increased employment within a diverse business community and strong public and third sector.

Hartlepool has a long history of rising in the face of such adversity and as a result has become a much more diverse economy to meet the demands of the global economy. The town is now recognised as a major retail, service and manufacturing centre which significantly contributes to sub regional and regional economic activity. Expansions into international markets are also occurring through companies such as JDR Cables, Heerema, Huntsman, TERRC and Hart Biological which will benefit the wider economy. Alongside this, the town has transformed key regeneration areas in the past 20 years including the docks and specific employment land sites. The Marina and areas such as Queens Meadow Business Park are acknowledged as flagship initiatives with the former offering excellent office, housing and maritime tourism facilities and the latter providing improved business infrastructure facilities which have increased inward investment. Also the UK Steel Enterprise Innovation Centre and the redeveloped Hartlepool Enterprise Centre offer excellent start-up units which have increased the number of new businesses across the town.

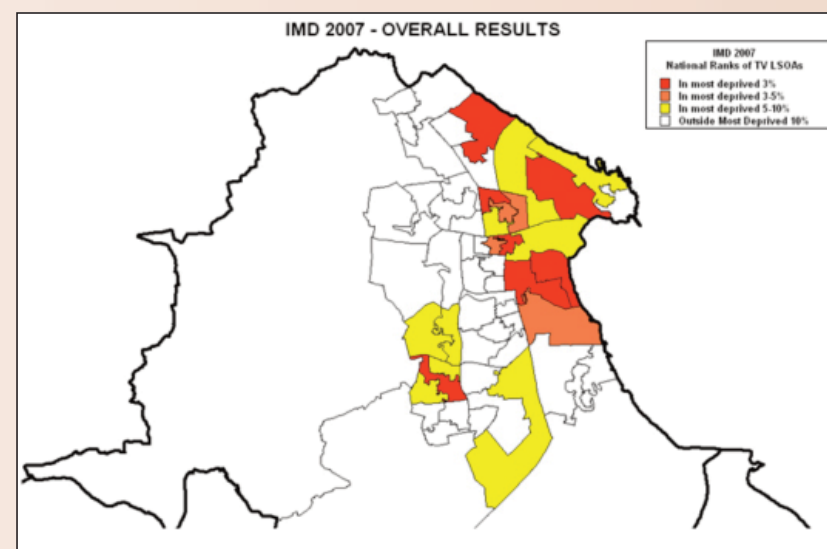
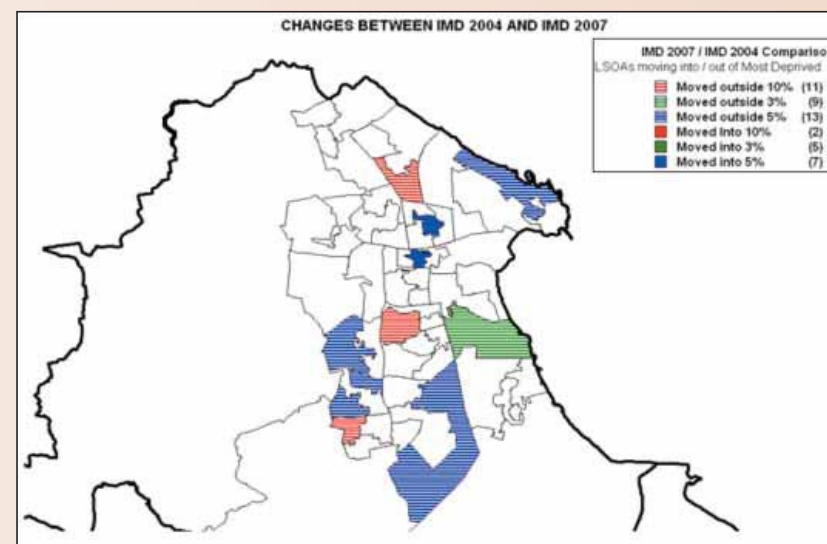
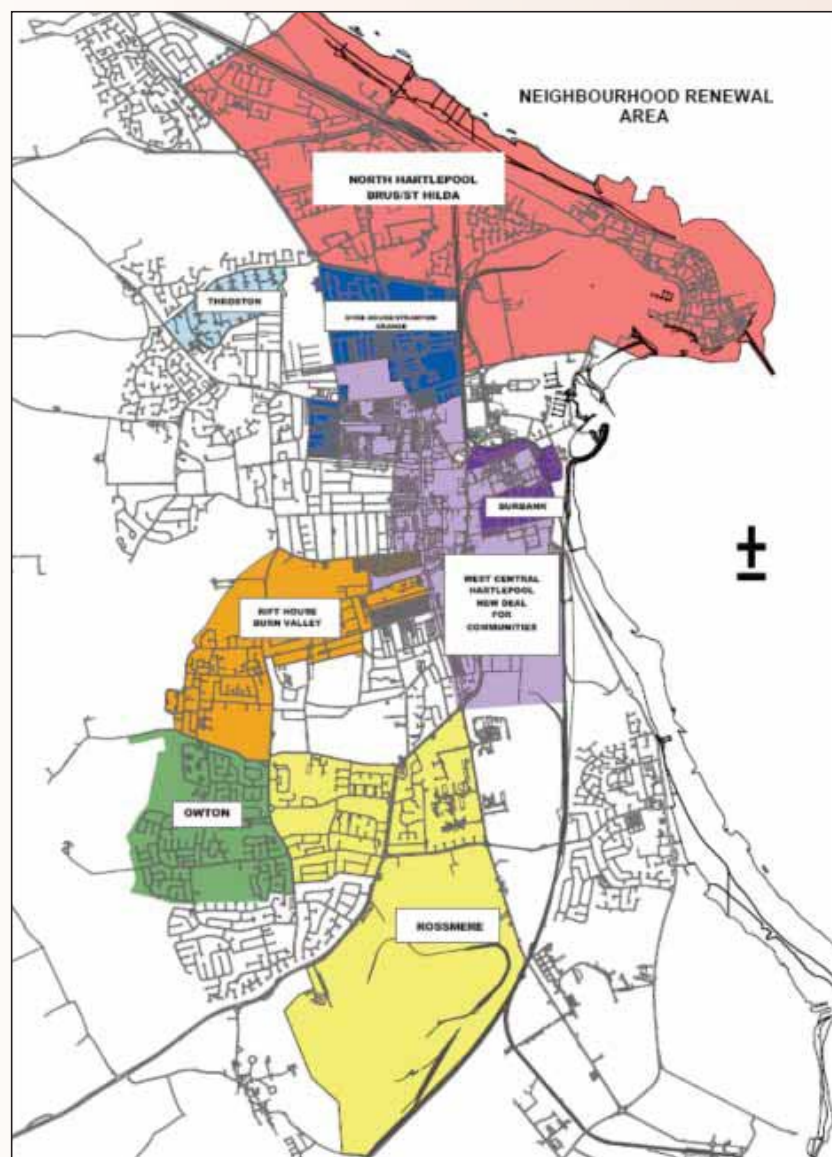
¹ All population figures are taken from Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU) estimates based on ONS population data and methodology

Advancements in business infrastructure activity have lead to an increase in the number of new start up businesses and improvements in self-employment rates. Whilst this has provided the necessary mix of labour market opportunity for local residents, the local economy is still strongly influenced by the public sector - which currently provides a third of all employment. However, it is clear that in a time of renewed austerity there will be cuts to public and private investment that may restrict the growth of the economy and ultimately slow the employment rate. The town has also made great strides in tackling deprivation and the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) survey in 2007 shows that although Hartlepool was the 23rd most deprived of England's 354 Local Authorities, this improved from 14th position in 2004. Any major cuts in investment will impact on improvements made to the social, economic and environmental landscape of the area which will ultimately affect the poorest communities.

6.0 Map of Hartlepool



7.0 Hartlepool's Neighbourhood Renewal Areas



Originally, Hartlepool's 2002 Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy used the government's Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2000 to establish seven priority neighbourhoods within the town. The 2007 Index of Deprivation showed that some areas within the priority neighbourhoods identified in 2002 are no longer in the 10% most disadvantaged. However, because the way in which the Government calculates the index has changed significantly since 2000 and due to the long term vision of Hartlepool's 2002 Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, those areas previously identified as a priority remained in the 2008 Strategy.

Alongside this, included within the 2008 list of priority neighbourhoods is Throston Grange – which is not in the bottom 10% overall, but is for the key themes of Employment and Health, Deprivation & Disability - bringing the total number of priority neighbourhoods to eight. These are):

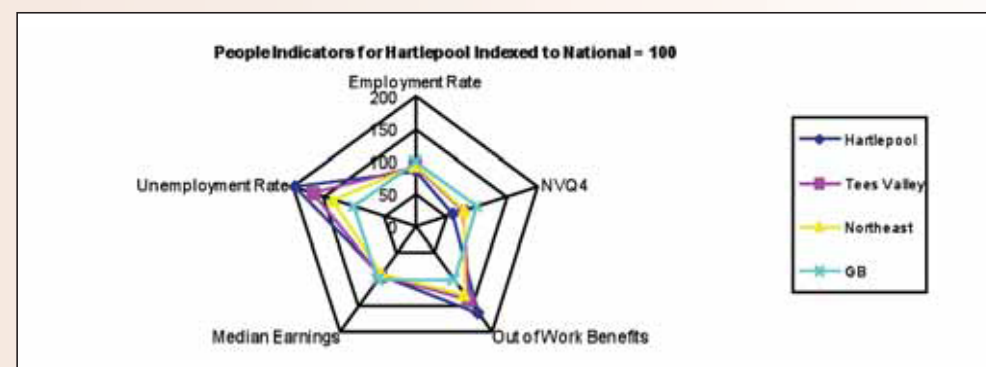
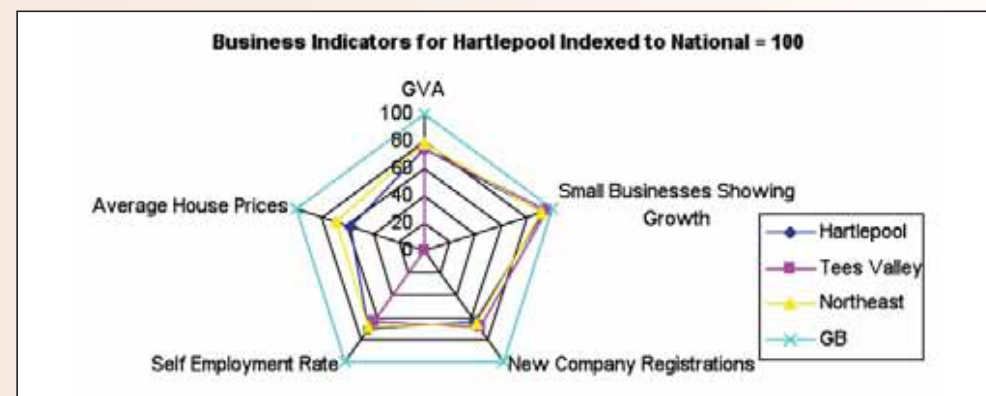
Burbank
Dyke House/Stranton/Grange
Hartlepool NDC
North Hartlepool (Central Estate, Headland & West View/King Oswy)
Owton
Rift House/Burn Valley
Rossmere
Throston

55% (just over 50,000) of Hartlepool's population currently live in these eight priority neighbourhoods; of the 17 wards, 11 fall within the Neighbourhood Renewal area. Of these, 11 NRA's fall into the 5% most deprived areas nationally. Of the 58 Super Output Areas in the town, 20 are in the 10% most deprived areas nationally, 11 of them in the bottom 5%.

8.0 An Economic Profile of Hartlepool

Over the past twenty five years, Hartlepool's regeneration and economic development activity has significantly improved the social, economic and environmental vitality of the town. The town is now a more enriched, vibrant and attractive area in which to live, work and socialise within and the improved infrastructure continues to encourage and attract major investment which will lead to longer term economic growth. Through this transformation, the town has

witnessed considerable success in tackling inequalities and social exclusion and within the past decade all of the above indicators were moving in the right direction to narrowing the gap to the regional and national average. Since the global economic crisis, there has been a major impact on local indicators and fragility within the economy remains. Whilst concerning, the change within the economic climate has provided opportunities to further assist indigenous businesses, invest in new technology and focus on growth industries which will ultimately lead to a sustained and viable economy.



Each indicator is an Index with the National figure=100. Gross Value Added - latest 2007; Average House Prices – latest 2008; Self Employment Rate – latest 2009/10; New VAT.PAYE Companies - latest 2008 (NI 171); Small Businesses Showing Growth – latest 2009 (NI 172); Employment Rate - latest 2009/10 (NI 151); Unemployment Rate – latest 2010; Median Earnings – weekly earnings by workplace latest – 2009 (NI 166); Out of Work Benefits - latest 2010 (NI 152); % working age with Level 4 - latest 2009 (NI 165)

9.0 Pre Economic Recession Journey of Indicators

Before the economic recession, Hartlepool was showing signs of real improvement as shown below.

Indicator	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Employment rate (% of working age) ‡	-	-	-	64.1	65.6	64.4	64.3
Unemployment rate (JSA claimants) (% of working age)†	4.5	4.7	4.2	3.7	3.7	4.2	3.9
Long Term Unemployed (% of JSA claimants) †	42.1	37.1	33.1	30.8	33.9	36.2	31.2
Working Age on Out of Work Benefits (%)	24.8	24.2	23.2	22.0	21.5	21.1	20.8
Residents with NVQ2 or Above (%)‡	58.2	58.9	60.2	60.5	62.1	64.7	66.9
Median weekly Earnings of Employees (£)	321.50	333.10	342.90	346.60	375.70	396.10	388.50
New VAT/PAYE Registrations*	-	-	-	225	260	285	350
VAT / PAYE Enterprises*	-	-	-	1,650	1,730	1,830	1,985

Source: Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey; DWP; Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings; Business Demography ONS

* Consistent series begins with 2004 data; † Snapshot of claimants in September each year; ‡ Calendar year averages

Note on sources

Much data in this report is drawn from the Annual Population Survey and Labour Force Survey. These figures are extrapolated from survey results and, as such, are subject to a margin of error, which is not given in the text. Typical margins of error for Hartlepool would be around 1 percentage point, although they may be substantially higher where the number of interviewees in a particular group is small (e.g. the self-employed).

10.0 Key Findings

Hartlepool's Economic Assessment will provide the necessary evidence base to increase knowledge and better understand local economic conditions and to analyse how the town makes a significant contribution to wider sub-regional and regional functional markets. Understanding this wider scope of economic activity across multiple boundaries will provide an insight into the opportunities that the town could maximise and will also reflect the influence that global market failures have at a local level. It builds on the Sustainable Community Strategy, Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, the Local Development Framework and the Local and Multi-Area Agreement.

This completed assessment will lead to an Economic Development Strategy which will respond to this needs assessment and which will identify:

- The authority's capacity and prioritisation in relation to economic development and regeneration interventions.
- Improved interventions to tackle worklessness, skills and enterprise initiatives
- Enhanced ways of working to develop commercial activity and business infrastructure;
- How it can improve local authority engagement with private sector partners; and;
- How the town will respond to the upturn and strengthen jobs and business growth in the long term through sustainable measures.

10.1 Business

Business Stock

- During the past decade, the number of businesses in Hartlepool increased substantially, reaching 2,425 in 2009. Much of this can be attributed to the large increase in the number of business births in this period, on which measure Hartlepool out-performed both Tees Valley and the North East. There were a number of policy initiatives during this period which contributed towards this increase in business numbers, including the Business Incubation System, with a hot house development at Queen's Meadow and an enhancement scheme at Brougham Enterprise Centre.
- During the economic downturn, both the total number and – in particular - the business birth rate fell. The new businesses formed in the previous years

proved to be relatively less resilient to the poor trading conditions than regionally or nationally. However, this may have aided the area, by removing the less competitive businesses, leaving a more robust business stock in the area; this is corroborated by evidence that median earnings of workers employed in Hartlepool businesses increased substantially in 2009.

- In addition, a number of major national businesses have collapsed (e.g. Woolworths, Garlands) or pulled out of the town, causing high levels of redundancies. As such, the business base in the area has declined sharply over the past two years – however, still it remains above the 2004 level, while the rate of business formation is currently similar to the 2004 level. As such, it seems reasonable that despite the declines of a recent past, the state of Hartlepool's business base and business birth rate is now in a much improved condition from the start of the decade.
- However, there remains a clear enterprise gap between Hartlepool (and indeed, the region as a whole) and the national pattern. The town has fewer enterprises per head of population and, despite recent improvements, a lower business formation rate.

Employment

- In employment terms, the overall employment rate of working age residents increased strongly in the period to 2006, peaking at 66.5%, halving the gap with the national rate. However, subsequent changes in economic conditions were accompanied by a steep fall in the employment rate, which stood at just 60.9% in the latest available figures (36,700 people).
- Although employment in Hartlepool's manufacturing sector has declined sharply, losing nearly one-third of its workers since 2004, it remains relatively more important to the town than in the country as a whole. However, the government's stated policy on supporting the manufacturing sector will benefit Hartlepool as it is well-placed to take full advantage of new markets due to its established manufacturing infrastructure.
- Employment in public services is relatively high, but will decline in the future and will continue to do so long term as a consequence of public sector funding cuts.
- The knowledge economy is under-represented in Hartlepool, with low numbers employed in the town within information & communication, finance and professional, scientific & technical activities. There is some evidence that more highly-skilled workers – i.e. those most likely to be employed in knowledge-intensive activities – are more likely to out-commute to jobs than those in lower

skilled activities, since the median earnings for Hartlepool residents (£486.40) is higher than the median earnings for employees working within Hartlepool businesses (£445.80).

- Self-employment is close to local and regional averages, in the order of 6-7% of the working age population (around 3-4,000 people). It has risen substantially since the early part of the decade, although remains well below national rates (around 9%). This again provides evidence of an 'enterprise gap'.

Productivity

- Gross Value Added (GVA) by Hartlepool & Stockton businesses per head of population is relatively low, standing at £14,370 in 2007, compared to a regional average of £15,460 and £20,430 nationally. GVA per employee is closer to regional averages, but still lags well behind the English average. These figures are the latest available, and do not take into account any effects from the recession.

Key issues facing business

- The key issue currently facing business is uncertainty, with a fragile global economy and significant public sector funding cuts underway, including the axing of major infrastructure projects. The direct and indirect, knock-on effects of these cuts will have a major effect on spending and business success, but it is difficult to predict the outcome with any degree of precision.
- Access to finance, especially for new businesses and SMEs, remains problematic, although the cost of lending is low if businesses can obtain it.
- The increase in the rate of VAT to 20% may weaken consumer spending.
- The skills available to business among Hartlepool residents are on a long-term upward trend, although this has stagnated somewhat in recent years. The challenge facing business is to make best use of those skills in order to drive up productivity, which implies upskilling the jobs available in Hartlepool i.e. increasing the local demand for higher level skills as well as the supply.
- The local workforce is ageing, particularly in key manufacturing sectors (e.g. engineering, where the average age is over 50), where the supply of young replacements tends to be insufficient.
- The cost of absenteeism among employees is high, with the North East among the most poorly performing regions. Hartlepool has been a pilot area for a programme to tackle absenteeism in the workplace, which, it is hoped, will see a reduction in these (and other costs) in the longer term.

- Strategies which businesses can adopt to deal with current issues include moving into new markets and efficiency savings.

Key Growth Sectors

- Nuclear: The nuclear sector - employs approximately 1% of the local working age population. Although the power station was due to be decommissioned from 2014 onwards, a five year extension has recently been granted and there is scope for the commissioning of a newbuild station in the town (with Hartlepool's site identified by the government as being one of eight areas being considered). Both of which will generate substantial employment and turnover in the borough.
- Offshore Oil & Gas: Offshore-related manufacturing is a key local specialism, with current provision to capacity. There is further potential to expand, particularly if increases in the price of oil make marginal fields more viable, but this would likely require development of the local supply chain,
- Offshore Wind: There is substantial potential to develop Hartlepool's existing engineering expertise to take further advantage of the opportunities in green power generation over the coming decade, particularly in servicing the Dogger Bank area of the North Sea. There are already facilities manufacturing components for wind generation, and land available for major inward investment opportunities.
- Low Carbon Economy: In addition to offshore wind, there is expertise in Hartlepool relating to other environmental-related areas which could be developed further, including processing of scrap and diversifying offshore wind skills and facilities into onshore wind.
- High Value Added Engineering: Engineering remains an important employer in Hartlepool, employing around 1,700 people. Given the variety of local expertise, it is well-placed to take advantage of component supply opportunities in a number of different growth areas, including new build nuclear and the low carbon economy.
- Knowledge Intensive Business Services (KIBS): Hartlepool currently has a low proportion of employment in KIBS, with the highest numbers employed in contact centres. There are opportunities for growth in this area and – in particular - in outsourcing, building on Tees Valley's good reputation, but other areas with higher skill requirements – finance and other professional services – require some development.
- Process & Chemicals: Like engineering, the chemical industry is a traditional

strength in Hartlepool, with high levels of investment and relatively high resilience to the downturn, given the supply chains in which they operate. It is also the intention of the North/South Tees Study to build on the opportunities identified within the report including carbon capture technology and biomass power generation.

- **Hospitality & Tourism:** This is an important sector, both as an employer in its own right, and in assisting wider development goals through supporting a higher quality of life, and encouraging recruitment and retention of inward investing businesses and higher skilled, higher earning workers. The sector has seen growth in recent years, in terms of visitor numbers and GVA, and development of attractions is ongoing.
- **Retail:** The number of retail businesses in Hartlepool has steadily decreased in recent years, to 335 in 2010, although the number of employees has increased, to 2,800. These trends are due to the development of larger – and in particular out-of-town – retailers, competition from the internet and, more recently, declines in consumer spending. Vacancy rates are high in some areas, but the core town centre remains a key retail hub for the area.
- **Health & Social Care:** The health & social care sector employs around 5,000 people in Hartlepool, with demand set to grow and diversify because of both the ageing population and changes to the structure of public funding (e.g. personalisation and GP commissioning). The future trajectory of the sector depends on how well the town's providers can respond to these opportunities.
- **Construction & the Built Environment:** During the past decade, the construction sector generally showed strong growth in Hartlepool, but has been hit hard by the downturn and the decline in the housing market. While this is now showing some signs of recovery, most major public sector building projects are now on hold or axed, leaving little potential for significant growth in the next few years.
- **Voluntary & Community Sector:** There are around 650 Third Sector (community, voluntary or social enterprise) organisations in Hartlepool, which contribute to local economic and social development in a variety of ways. With the Big Society agenda moving forward, it is envisaged that they will play an even more important role in the future, but will face a number of challenges including reduction and reorganisation of funding streams and increased competition to win tenders. Thought should be given to appropriate support for the Third Sector to move forward, including the development of consortia, most likely through the Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency.
- **Environmental & land-based:** Given the lack of agricultural land in Hartlepool, this is a very small sector, with limited growth potential.

10.2 People

Demographics

- The population of Hartlepool has been steadily increasing over the past decade, and now stands at 90,900. This change has been driven by older age groups, with the number of under-16s actually declining, and forecast to change very little in the the next 20 years. The number and proportion of retired people, however, is forecast to grow strongly, with an additional 8,000 over-65s anticipated by 2030. This may have significant consequences for the business community, if there are insufficient entrants to the labour market to replace retirees.

Ethnicity

- The British Minority Ethnicity population in Hartlepool has been increasing over the past ten years, from 1,030 to 1,700 (1.9% of the population) according to official estimates. This may be an under-estimate – experimental statistics indicate that 2.8% of the population fell into BME groups in 2007, and local household surveys report up to 8% of the population in BME groups.

Health & Wellbeing

- Hartlepool's level of health & well-being is relatively poor by national standards. The standardised mortality ratio is high – death rates are 26% above what would be expected, and 35% higher for under-75s. Life expectancy at birth is 2.6 years shorter for men and 3.7 years shorter for women than the national average. Early deaths from cancer and, in particular, circulatory diseases are disproportionately high (in the latter case, 30% higher than national rates). The proportion of the population claiming health-related benefits is higher than national or regional figures, as is the prevalence of unhealthy lifestyle risk factors e.g. smoking, binge drinking, obesity, misuse of drugs. The mental health of the population is also relatively poor, with 47.7 adults per 1,000 population claiming mental illness-related benefits, compared with 27.6 nationally, with referrals rising substantially in the last year.

Financial exclusion

- Financial exclusion in Hartlepool is high. Just under half of all households have a poor credit rating, placing Hartlepool in the bottom 50 local authorities in the country. Citizens Advice Bureau centres report that 85% of recent enquiries have been related to money or debt. The formation of a Financial Inclusion

Partnership has begun to address these challenges, both directly through increasing access to more affordable forms of credit and face-to-face advice and indirectly through information guides and roadshows.

Child Poverty

- In 2007, 5,000 children (30%) in Hartlepool were classed as living in poverty, far higher than the North East (24%) or England (22%). There is now a Child Poverty Pledge and Strategy and a Town Wide Child Poverty Action Plan which is tackling the problems, along with eight children's centres to help families with children under five.

Economic activity and worklessness

- The number of economically active adults grew from 38,900 in 2004 to 43,100 (74.4% of the working age population) in 2007, exceeding the North East rate but still well below the national rate. However, the level of economic activity subsequently decreased sharply, with only 41,000 adults (70%) classed as active in 2009/10 the lowest in the Tees Valley area and 6.4 percentage points below Great Britain. In particular, rates have seen a much sharper decline among women than men, from 69% in 2007/08 to 62% of women in 2009/10. This is at odds with the performance of female activity rates nationally, which have remained static.
- Some 17,500 adults in Hartlepool – 30% of the working age population – are currently classified as workless, well above the rates in the North East (27%) and nationally (23.5%). Similarly, 9,000 households were classed as workless in 2009, 28% of all households in the town.
- Unemployment (measured using the Jobseeker's Allowance claimant count) reached a low of just over 2,000 people in May 2005, following a long period of improvement. However, subsequent large-scale redundancies and the economic downturn have pushed the claimant count to 3,993 in October 2010, nearly double the level of four years earlier. In addition, the proportion of claimants who had been unemployed for six months or longer, which had been on a long-term downward trend, increased substantially in 2009-10, from 26% to 43%, although this spike was relatively short-lived – the current proportion of long-term unemployed is 33%.
- The number of adults claiming out-of-work benefits decreased steadily between 2000 and 2006, reaching a low of 11,360 (20% of the working age population), although the rate remained well above the national claimant rate (around 11%). The number has subsequently increased, although not greatly, reaching 12,500

in 2009-10 (21.7% of the working age population).

- There are geographical disparities within Hartlepool, with the worst performing wards recording substantially higher levels of worklessness and benefit claims than the borough as a whole. In five wards, over 40% of adults are workless.

Vacancies

- As of June 2010, there were 616 unfilled vacancies advertised for Hartlepool by Jobcentre Plus (representing around 30% of all vacancies in the area). This implies that there were 51 workless applicants who could apply for each advertised position. In order to reach those furthest from the labour market access vacancies, Hartlepool Works has been established, bringing together a consortium of employment, training and specialist providers.

Incapacity-related benefits

- Just over 6,200 adults claimed some form of incapacity-related benefit in May 2010, equivalent to 10.8% of the working age population, well above the rates in both the North East (8.6%) and nationally (6.5%), although this gap has narrowed substantially as the number of claimants has decreased. The majority (4,080) have been claiming for five years or longer. Some 2,000 claimants are aged 55 or over, and therefore outside the measures introduced to move claimants into work.

Youth unemployment

- Approximately 1,900 people aged 16-24 were classed as unemployed in the latest survey figures available. This is somewhat higher than the average for the past five years, which has typically been between 1,000-1,500, often spending short periods unemployed between similarly short periods in employment. In addition, there are currently 1,185 18-24 year olds who are unemployed. Among 16-19-year-olds, people were not in employment, education or training (NEET); the annual average NEET rate of 8.2% is below the North East rate (9.7%) but higher than nationally (6.9%). The typical period spent NEET is short, but around 1% of this age-group are classed as long-term NEET. Support has been available to the young unemployed through the Future Jobs Fund – the Hartlepool programme has been nationally recognised for its success – but this will end in 2011, with the similarly successful Going Forward project also coming to an end. This leaves a gap in provision for young unemployed people, which may be met if a bid to the Skills Funding Agency is successful.

Skills – young people

- After lagging behind national and regional trends in GCSE performance, in 2008/09 599 Hartlepool pupils (48.7%) achieved 5 GCSEs at A*-C including English and Mathematics. This was slightly above the North East rate (48.1%) and had substantially narrowed the gap with the English rate (50.1%), making the joint greatest improvement of any local authority. Attainment of this standard by the 230 pupils eligible for free school meals has also risen, with 57 pupils reaching it (24.8%). Achievement in science-related subjects is relatively poor, however, with only 49.1% gaining two good science GCSEs, compared with 54% regionally and nationally.
- The proportion of 16-year-olds studying in Hartlepool attaining any Level 2 qualification was 69.8% (869 people) in 2008/09 – well above the national rate of 63.9%, and on a steeper upward trend than nationally
- Attainment of Level 3 qualifications by age 19 is somewhat poorer. By 2008/09, 535 19-year-olds had attained this level; the rate of 43.3% is well below the national rate of 51.4%. Progression to Level 3 is clearly challenging, although the increase in attainment at Level 2 at 16 in recent years bodes well for future increases in attainment of Level 3.
- Only 65% of 16-17-year-olds were still in full-time education in 2008, compared with 75% nationally. This is the lowest proportion of any North East authority, while the proportion in work-based learning (13%) was the joint highest. Framework success rates at Hartlepool College are in line with national averages, at 69%. The College also has high success rates with E2E provision, with 76% of leavers progressing to a positive destination, among the highest in the region.
- The launch of a wide range of new vocational Diplomas approved by the 11-19 Partnership aims to raise attainment further and offer better routeways into FE, HE and employment. There are also ongoing major redevelopments to a number of schools and colleges throughout the borough, including some new builds, to deliver higher quality facilities and aiming to improve participation and attainment rates.
- Applications from Hartlepool residents for full-time undergraduate courses have risen substantially – by nearly 50% since 2007 – to reach 722 by 2009 (4.3% of the 18-29 age cohort), of which 602 were successful. The success rate since 2000 has fluctuated but has been in line with North East averages, at over 80%.
- Hartlepool has one of the highest proportions of HE entrants using provision other than full-time undergraduate courses, amounting to 936 out of the 1,485 who entered HE in 2008/09. This is equivalent to 63% of entrants, well above

the regional rate of 54%.

- A high proportion of HE entrants to full-time undergraduate courses are from a deprived background- 50% of acceptances in 2009, against 44% regionally.

Skills – adults

- Average skill levels among the working age population steadily increased between 2000 and 2007, but have since shown few signs of growth, and even some decline. The number with no qualifications reached a low of 9,300 (16.6%) in 2007, but has subsequently risen to 10,700 (18.3%), well above the regional and national rates. Similarly, the number with Level 3+ skills grew to 24,200 by 2007 (43.6%), but then declined slightly. Currently, the numbers are growing again, but broadly in line with population growth, meaning that the proportion holding this qualification level has been relatively static, at just over 18%. This is the lowest proportion in Tees Valley, and well behind North East and GB rates.
- Local intelligence on skills will be increasingly important in the future as funding is devolved to a local level and reporting by official bodies is only available regionally. This will require consultation with local stakeholders, including providers and employers, to gain a rounded picture of skills supply and demand.
- The Audit Commission has reported that the Council provides a good service for developing skills in the area, engaging businesses and residents well, but the recent decline in the business base and low future growth forecasts may cause difficulties for further progress on skills in the short- to medium-term. In particular, SMEs need to engage more with the training system, and competencies at high skill levels developed on-the-job should be accredited with relevant qualifications.

Skill needs in key sectors

- There are a number of skill needs which cut across many Hartlepool employers and sectors. These include: upskilling the workforce generally, and ensuring that there is a supply of skilled and motivated work-ready young entrants to replace the ageing workforce; management, leadership and strategic skills; ICT skills across all users, not just in ICT-related occupations; technical and high level engineering skills in key manufacturing sectors; customer service, communication and team working skills. In addition, as shown by Future Jobs Funds recruits, there are many returners to the labour market who require pre-entry mentoring and coaching and significant in-work support to sustain them in employment, which employers feel should be a responsibility of JCP and other similar providers, rather than a burden on the employer.

- **Nuclear:** if Hartlepool is chosen as the site of a newbuild nuclear plant, it is forecast that this would generate 12,000 construction jobs, 5,000 in operations and 1,000 in manufacture. The majority of these (just over half) would be at technical or craft level, with rest roughly evenly split between Level 4+ and lower levels. With this level of demand, especially at higher levels, there is a risk that poaching of trained staff from other employers could create skill shortages elsewhere in the economy. SMEs are currently reluctant to commit to training without an indication of how definite the prospect of the work coming to Hartlepool is, creating the risk that they will lose out on the opportunity to enter the supply chain, which may be dominated by larger employers.
- **Offshore Oil & Gas:** future growth and employment and skill demands are intrinsically linked to the price of oil as supplies dwindle. If marginal (smaller and more complex) fields become viable, Hartlepool businesses can build on their expertise and expand and diversify to serve them. Local skills gaps include an ageing workforce (requiring local promotion of national schemes to encourage young entrants), and management skills which will be required to pursue an aggressive diversification agenda.
- **Offshore Wind:** The sector is forecast to grow strongly, but this creates the risk of skill shortages, especially if businesses poach workers from areas which already have a comparatively experienced workforce, such as Hartlepool. There is already a substantial amount of training available locally, and employers are expanding productive capacity and employment, leaving the town well-placed to respond to the predicted growth in demand. Hartlepool College of Further Education has also invested in a new training facility which offers specialist training to respond to the industry and renewable energy opportunities for the future.
- **Low Carbon Economy:** In addition to skills for nuclear and offshore wind, Hartlepool is well-placed to use its existing workforce expertise to diversify into other low carbon energy sectors, in particular onshore wind. Training in other sectors – notably construction – needs to incorporate awareness of low carbon and energy-saving techniques.
- **High Value Added Engineering:** In general, the local sector requires stronger management and business improvement, and upskilling more workers from Level 2 to 3+. Engineering training is a recognised strength of Hartlepool College, and curriculum development is aligning training provision with wider sectoral developments.
- **Knowledge Intensive Business Services:** The largest sector locally is contact centres, which are already well-served by the training system. Skills provision in other sectors relies on engaging SMEs in training, and encouraging the adoption of national standards for career development and the development of more flexible delivery methods of training. In addition, the outsourcing sector is likely to develop further, requiring additional training provision in this area.
- **Digital Media:** The digital media sector in the North East is relatively small and underdeveloped, with only computer games and interactive media forming significant clusters. Skill shortages tend to be sector-specific and technical, requiring higher level entry qualifications and development of apprenticeship routes; since entry is often via word-of-mouth, this can be difficult in an area with underdeveloped clusters and networking, driving ambitious young people elsewhere to find employment. Locally, the Teesside Media Academy provides specialised training, while careers advice in schools is viewed as lacking in relation to the sector.
- **Process & Chemicals:** Given the product make-up of the local chemicals sector, it is likely to be fairly resilient to the downturn, and businesses are, on the whole, satisfied with training provision. However, delivery could be more flexible in terms of content and location by FE and HE providers. Hartlepool College also has a Centre of Vocational Excellence which works closely with local employers to address skill gaps an upskill and accredit the skills of the existing workforce. Another challenge for the industry is the ageing workforce and efforts by the industry and the Sector Skills Council have been made to create enhanced numbers of apprenticeships within this field.
- **Leisure, Hospitality & Tourism:** The key issue in this sector, dominated by SMEs, is the development of leadership and management skills, with customer service skills also in need of development. Locally, there are indications that skills gaps in both these areas are growing, with very few employers accessing publicly funded support. In addition, skilled food preparation staff are in short supply. Hartlepool College is responding by increasing apprenticeship numbers and courses, and working with careers advisors to more effectively promote the sector.
- **Retail:** Retail staff tend to have low qualifications levels, with over half of all North East retail managers not holding and NVQ3. Management, sales and customer services are key skill gaps, as are – increasingly – ICT-related skills. Skillsmart's Location Model could be used to develop skills in a number of retail outlets within a local area.
- **Health & Social Care:** The main skill gaps currently identified by the SSC are sector-specific technical skills and customer service, although forecasts of future growth and changing skill needs are complicated by the restructuring of public

sector funding arrangements. Locally, skills development needs to take account of the health challenges faced by the town, and in particular aim at reducing the level of lifestyle risk factors among the population. Within care, the workforce need to work towards the minimum qualifications standards set down by the government, which they are currently some way from meeting, particularly in the private sector. Hartlepool College offers a full range of relevant qualifications, and is expanding the number of apprenticeships in response to this.

- **Construction & built environment:** The construction industry in the North East has been affected significantly by the current economic climate, with employment decreasing from 124,860 in 2008 to 97,810 in 2010. It is forecast that employment will grow again slowly, with an annual recruitment requirement of 3,190 (mainly replacements for retirees) across the entire region. As such, growth in employment in Hartlepool will be extremely limited, with the main focus being to train sufficient new entrants to replenish the workforce. Traditional training needs to be supplemented with techniques based on new technologies, particularly those related to the low carbon economy.
- **Environmental & land-based:** This is a very small sector in Hartlepool, and opportunities for development are limited. It may be more worthwhile to encourage residents to obtain training for jobs outside the town, which could be used as the basis for them setting up their own business at a later date.
- **Voluntary & community:** The 7,500 volunteers in the 650 third sector organisations in Hartlepool are estimated to be equivalent to about 600 full-time jobs. Although employees tend to be highly skilled, there is a key shortage of skills related to dealing with volunteers, while skills related to leadership, general business administration and measurement of impact all need development. Future growth predictions are complicated by uncertainty surrounding the new public sector funding arrangements – in particular since many organisations provide social care – and the forthcoming Big Society reforms. Recommendations include the incorporation of training costs in commissioning arrangements and more flexible, innovative delivery methods (e.g. e-learning, consortia and secondments).
- The third sector also contributes towards skills development and worklessness alleviation through outreach and community support, providing experience through volunteering (to be formalised through Work Clubs) and reinvesting in local communities. With the ending of existing funding streams and the onset of the Work Programme, thought needs to be given to how the work done in the third sector can continue, and in particular how the Council can work in partnership and consortia with third sector organisations to bid for new funding streams.

10.3 Place

Regeneration

- Future regeneration investment will be focussed in the Regeneration Action Zones, a number of which are also part of the Tees Valley Coastal Arc Strategy, which is the focus of regeneration in the wider local area. These investments aim to improve both economic development and tourism and the visitor experience – for example, a coastal path and cycleway.
- Important regeneration projects include: the wind power development at Victoria Harbour; tourism developments at The Headland, The Marina and Seaton Carew; and a variety of premises and estates for commercial activity in the Southern Business Zone and Wynyard Business Park, including the possibility of new hospital if alternative funding can be found (given the cancellation of central government funding for the project).
- In addition, there is investment in housing market renewal around the borough, including social housing; improvements to the fabric of educational institutions; and possible refurbishment of the town square.



- However, these plans may be altered by the changes in the planning system proposed by the new coalition government, which will devolve more power to local communities to make their own decisions, in collaboration with the local authority.

Household growth

- It is forecast that, primarily due to the growth in single person households and the ageing of the population, approximately 5,400 new homes (gross) will be needed in Hartlepool in the next 15 years, equivalent to a net addition of 320 per annum. This comes from additions to existing housing areas and development of Greenfield sites on the urban edge and on urban Brownfield sites.

Housing stock

- There were just over 39,000 occupied dwellings in Hartlepool in 2007, and around 2,000 vacant properties (of which 620 were due for demolition) and a small number of second homes (300). This represents a vacancy rate of 4.7%, above the national rate of 3%, although it was substantially higher in some wards due to the poor quality of the housing stock. The scheduled demolitions have now been carried out through the Housing Market Renewal Programme, which is still ongoing.
- Demand for new homes exceeds supply across Hartlepool, including for rented accommodation, with long waiting lists for social housing; in some areas, people may turn to the private rented sector where social housing is unavailable. Executive homes comprise only 3% of the housing stock, and development is needed in this area, particularly if economic development aims of upskilling the population are to be met.
- Demand among newly formed households is strongest for family homes (2-3 bedroom properties), with much lower and falling demand for apartments – many newly developed complexes have high vacancy rates.
- There is a shortfall of 393 affordable dwellings per annum, implying that meeting the need among certain groups for affordable housing is a key priority. This can partly be achieved through enforcing a minimum proportion (10%) of affordable housing on new residential schemes, part-funded by national support schemes. The New Homes Bonus announced by the coalition will also aid in developing the housing stock as required.

Fuel poverty

- In 2009, fuel poverty (spending over 10% of household income on total fuel use)

is likely to be a major problem in Hartlepool, given the high rate of benefit claim. To counter this, in addition to national schemes, the town has developed a Winter Warmth Campaign which, among other initiatives, will provide home safety checks and give out advice on energy efficiency.

Broadband

- Broadband availability and speed is generally good with some exceptions, and will improve substantially when the pledged introduction of superfast lines by the coalition government is accomplished. No data is available on the proportion of households or businesses in Hartlepool which are online, but increasing this rate, and supporting business owners and residents to make best use of broadband is a clear policy direction.

Transport

- Improving local connectivity is seen as a key priority for Hartlepool. While the current road network is effective, transport flows have increased to the point where the network is near capacity, and forecasts indicate increasing congestion and poorer environmental conditions due to increased traffic flows. As such, meeting the increased demand in a more sustainable way is necessary.
- The identified issues to take into account are: increasing car ownership and dependence; increased volumes of traffic; unreliability of public transport and freight journeys; changing spatial employment patterns; and the growth of the population. Initiatives to remedy the problems include: promoting more sustainable travel (walking, cycling, public transport); educating the local population about smarter transport choices; controlling parking provision; maintaining roads; and increasing capacity of junctions.
- The lack of a single commercial centre in Tees Valley creates difficulties for the public transport system. To counter this, there are proposals to create a new £140m metro system (which was not cut in the Comprehensive Spending Review) linking, in its first phase, Darlington to Tees Valley Airport and on to Saltburn, with future phases dependent on funding. In addition, initiatives improve local bus networks include: buses being given priority on a number of routes; rolling out real time passenger information provision; simplifying and improving ticketing and fares; marketing and promoting bus usage,
- Rail and air links are both highly important, with Hartlepool being served by the Durham coast line providing links to Newcastle and the Grand Central Line direct to London, compensating for the loss of direct air links. Nearby Durham Tees Valley Airport is seen as a key driver of the local economy, with its planned

expansion contributing further to economic development and regeneration.

- In total, 67% of residents work in Hartlepool, with 33% commuting out to work, mainly to neighbouring local authorities. This equates to approximately 12,600 people out-commuting, with 9,300 in-commuting (again, mainly from nearby local authorities). On balance, this implies a net outflow of just over 3,000 commuters.

Business sites

- There is a limited range of high quality accommodation for businesses available within Hartlepool, which have been extensively developed and refurbished through a partnership of public and private investment. In total, there are 185ha of key employment locations, 158ha of land for general employment and 29ha restricted for port-related usage. To meet future demand and remain competitive, the town requires 210ha for general employment and 135ha for key employment locations. This implies that there is an oversupply of large premises, particularly factories, and the need to replace the older stock with modern, smaller units. The market for offices is concentrated in the town centre and marina, and any new private sector development is likely to require public sector subsidy.



Town centre, retail and leisure

- The primary retail stock in the town centre has reasonable occupancy rates (although retail vacancy across the town is higher than the regional average), and the retail offer is generally seen as good and varied, with both town centre and out-of-town shopping and leisure opportunities. Sporting activities are much improved, with a range of leisure centres, golf courses and professional sports clubs. The market hall was used to pilot a self-employment scheme,

which saw footfall increase by 18% and is likely to be extended.

- The tourism and visitor offer is worth nearly £50 million per annum and is much improved over the past decade, and includes a marina with a range of attractions, bars and restaurants; historical sites on The Headland; beaches and wildlife at Seaton Carew, Seal Sands and Saltholme; public art and museums; outdoor recreation, and large-scale public events. However, it is seen as relatively inaccessible, with little 'passing trade' – visitors need a reason to visit.
- The 18 hotels and guesthouses, mainly small and lower grade, offer 348 bedrooms, catering primarily for the contractor market. Weekend occupancy tends to be relatively low, but higher in summer, with the main source of business being summer weddings, family visits and attendance at events (mostly football). Future projections forecast at least a continuation of the current level of the contractor market, with development opportunities identified as budget hotel and possibly upper tier hotel development; upgrading of existing 3* hotels; additional self-catering facilities; and planning permission for new developments at Elwick Services and Trincomalee Wharf. These developments are supported by the Hartlepool Hotels Group, a forum for accommodation providers.
- The night-time economy has seen increased business, particularly in the Marina area, and is seen as a key sector to contribute to economic recovery. Work is ongoing to promote this offer and make Hartlepool a key visitor destination.
- While the downturn may have affected spending in parts of the visitor economy, it also offers an opportunity for the town to increase the number of day visitors, as families cut back on expensive holidays,

Natural environment

- Tees Valley has been a national leader in maximising value from waste, but this has been affected by the collapse in the price of recyclables during the downturn. In response to this, the Council are reviewing methods of processing waste to produce power or fuel, and minimising the level of household waste (and in particular the amount which cannot be recycled). A 'green' shop will be opened to encourage purchases of environmentally-friendly and re-used products.

Hartlepool is well-placed to take advantages of the economic opportunities offered by the move towards a low carbon economy, in particular supporting the use clean technologies in local heavy industries and developing the supply chain for wind and marine energy. The forthcoming Climate Change Adaptation Strategy will also include a full risk assessment of vulnerabilities to weather and climate change.





REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

31 March 2011



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

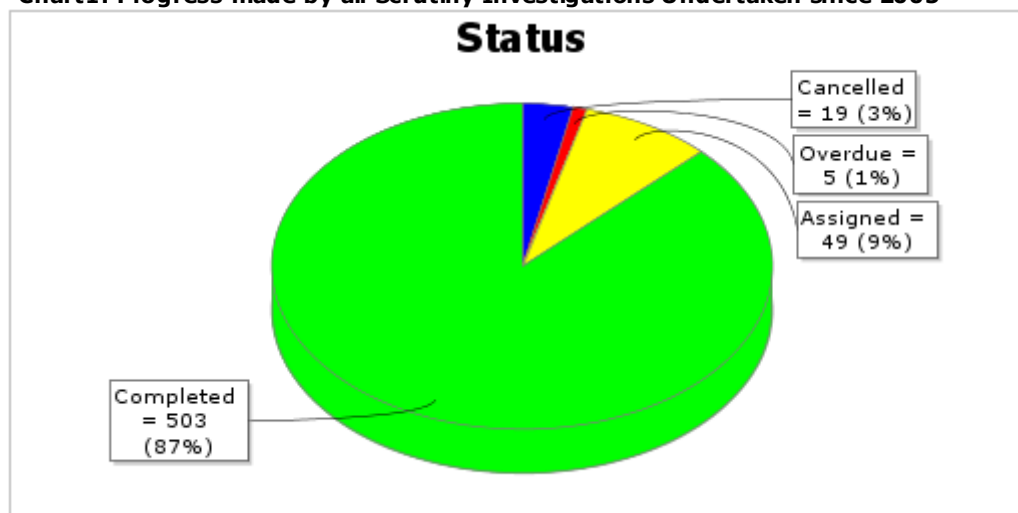
Subject: SIX MONTHLY MONITORING OF AGREED
REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES
SCRUTINY FORUM'S RECOMMENDATIONS

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 9 September 2010.

Chart1: Progress made by all Scrutiny Investigations Undertaken since 2005

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That Members:-

- (a) Note progress against the Regeneration and Planning 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.

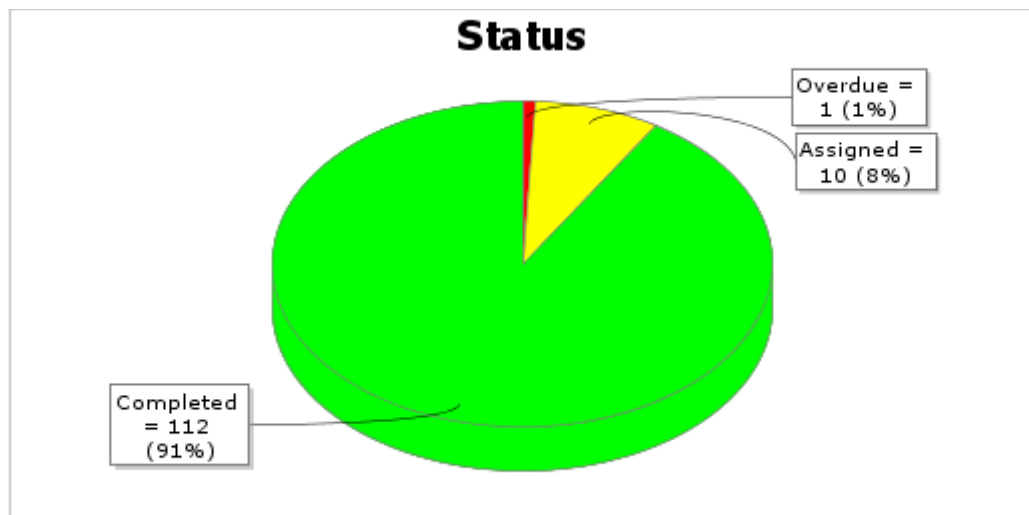
Contact Officer:- Elaine Hind – Scrutiny Support Officer
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Regeneration & Planning Services Scrutiny Forum - All

Generated on: 18 March 2011



Year 2005/06


Investigation Partnerships

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-RP/1a/i That the Council seeks to strengthen the feedback mechanisms (to the Local Authority) for its representatives	SCR-RP/1a/i The Constitution Working Group should consider establishing feedback mechanisms from its representatives on Partnerships to Council.	Peter Devlin	31 Dec 2006	31 Dec 2009	23 Feb 2010 The "Reporting of Partnerships" to the Authority to be included through the Constitution Working Group's 'Work Programme' 2009/10.	<div>1%</div> Overdue

7.2 Appendix A

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
on the Regional Assembly and that substitute arrangements for those representatives should be clarified.						

Year 2006/07 Investigation Railway Approaches

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-RP/2d That the Authority uses its Planning and Development Control powers proactively to enhance the Railway Approaches into the town.	SCR-RP/2d Planning & Development Control powers to be used as appropriate, including reporting mechanisms via Planning Committee, subject to individual site considerations.	Matthew King	01 Jun 2007	01 Jun 2011	10 Mar 2011 The works to the public transport interchange are complete and have had a very successful impact on the environment within this area. Network Rail have completed the refurbishment of the railway station including the canopy roof and platform improvements which will help to facilitate the Tees Valley Metro system in the future. In relation to the CJC Site an application to change a number of the conditions relating to the planning permission has been received. No development or remediation has yet begun on site. The Council has continued to	 Assigned

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					liaise with the owners of the Newburn Bridge premises and is encouraged that the levels of this site have reduced towards the agreed height. Officers will continue to monitor the railway corridor through an officer working group.	
					13 Apr 2010 Secretary of State's decision letter of 27 March 2010 granted permission for the CJC site so that the remediation of the land can now proceed within the terms of the S106 legal agreement. Discussions with owners of Newburn Bridge premises continuing at April 2010 with the owners and with the Environment Agency.	
					23 Feb 2010 Planning application for CJC site minded to approve by Committee June 2008: called in by Sec. of State Nov.08. Public Inquiry Nov 2009. Untidy Users at New Burn Bridge subject to discussions on planning conditions. Screening of site commenced July 2009 [update]Public Inquiry held 10-17 November 2009. S106 Legal agreement signed	

7.2 Appendix A

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					3 December 2009. Inspector's decision awaited in January-February 2010. Legal agreement requires site clearance to be commenced within a specified time from any planning permission. Discussions with owners of Newburn Bridge premises continuing December 2009 with the owners and with the Environment Agency.	

Year 2007/08

Investigation Seaton Carew - Regeneration Needs and Opportunities

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-RP/5g That pending the outcome of Seaton Carew's Coastal Strategy Study, consideration be given to delaying the establishment of interim arrangements for the marketing and planning activity for land susceptible to flooding in and around Seaton Carew.	SCR-RP/5g/i Report to Cabinet from Director of Neighbourhood Services regarding the outcome of the Coastal Strategy Study. The results of the study will influence the timing of further marketing of main seafront development sites in Seaton.	Dennis Hancock	31 Jan 2010	30 Apr 2011	04 Mar 2011 Cabinet Report currently on the forward programme and is expected to be presented in April 2011. 25 Feb 2010 The consultants are progressing the Strategy Study and a second public consultation was held in November 2009. The study is due to be complete and formally presented to the Environment Agency's National Review Group in April 2010. It is expected that the	<div> <div>50%</div> Assigned </div>

7.2 Appendix A

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					Environment Agency's review and approval.	
SCR-RP/5g That pending the outcome of Seaton Carew's Coastal Strategy Study, consideration be given to delaying the establishment of interim arrangements for the marketing and planning activity for land susceptible to flooding in and around Seaton Carew.	SCR-RP/5g/ii Other sites in Seaton brought forward for development will be subject to the standard flood risk analysis as part of the planning application process.	Dennis Hancock	31 Jan 2010	31 Dec 2011	<p>04 Mar 2011 Consultation currently ongoing to ensure that the coastal strategy for Seaton complements the regeneration proposals and appropriate contributions to the coastal upgrades are secured from all beneficiaries.</p> <p>25 Feb 2010 Expected to achieve target.</p>	<div> <div>50%</div> Assigned </div>

Year 2008/09

Investigation The Marketing of Hartlepool

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-RP/7d/ii That the signage into and around Hartlepool be:- (ii) Re-examined in relation to the use of an intermediary company who charges the Council for signage on roundabouts in Hartlepool with consideration about bringing 'in-house'.	SCR-RP/7d/ii Roundabout sponsorship arrangements to be reviewed.	John Brownhill	31 Oct 2009	31 Oct 2011	<p>21 Jan 2011 Discussions are still ongoing with Procurement</p> <p>21 Oct 2010 Procurement have looked into roundabout sponsorship, however Middlesbrough Council tendered under their own agreement and not Tees Valley therefore HBC are unable to tag onto that agreement. Further discussions will be taking place to look at possibility of</p>	<div> <div>70%</div> Assigned </div>

7.2 Appendix A

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					tendering the sponsorship of roundabouts via Procurement	
					16 Jul 2010 Contact with neighbouring Authorities has highlighted that there are a number of different schemes in operation. Middlesbrough Council has recently re-tendered the management of sponsorship of roundabouts and the agreements are more in favour of the Council in relation to the revenue percentage than is currently operating within Hartlepool. HBC Procurement are currently looking at the possibility of HBC tagging on to this contract under the Tees Valley arrangements.	
					25 Feb 2010 Income generation is being considered across the Regen & Neighbourhood dept, of which signage on roundabouts will be one aspect. Income generation will be looking at maximising future income to the council.	

Year 2009/10

Investigation Hartlepool's Business Incubation System

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-RP/9a/i That due to long-term sustainability problems of the Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) - (i) Reviews where gaps are in financial provision with the aim of prioritising grant support aid	SCR-RP/9a/i A review will be undertaken to take into account the existing grant provision across the region and emerging assistance through the Tees Valley Industrial Programme. Through the Tees Valley Finance for Business Group, issues about gaps in provision will be discussed and also opportunities for Hartlepool Businesses to integrate with Regional Funders will be developed.	Mick Emerson	31 Dec 2010	31 Dec 2011	07 Mar 2011 The Tees Valley Finance for Business Forum continues to meet to consider how best to integrate finance providers with clients. in addition the potential provision of finance Tees Valley wide is also being considered in conjunction with Heads of Economic Development - with the potential to consider a bid for Regional Growth Funding to provide the necessary capital. 17 Sep 2010 Ongoing development of Incubation system is continuing in view of the anticipated funding difficulties. Actions to enable the provision of financial assistance to be able to still be provided are being considered, although this may need to be in a form other than grants. 02 Aug 2010 Actions agreed	<div><div></div> 00%</div> Assigned
SCR-RP/9a/ii That due to long-term sustainability problems of the	SCR-RP/9a/ii As a service, opportunities to develop the property portfolio will be sought which has the potential in	Mick Emerson	31 Mar 2013	31 Mar 2013	07 Mar 2011 Continuing with the potential Crown House Development although decisions	<div><div></div> 00%</div> Assigned

7.2 Appendix A

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) - (ii) Seeks innovative ways of attracting sustainable income to support and develop the Business Incubation System in Hartlepool.	the medium term to provide income which could be utilised to support Hartlepool's Incubation system.				<p>about the most appropriate "vehicle" and potential funding are still outstanding</p> <p>10 Jan 2011 Continuing to investigate most appropriate mechanisms and seek funding</p> <p>17 Sep 2010 The change in government has led to delays in funding across the region. At the present time indicative costings are in the process of being sought although approval is required from ONE.</p> <p>08 Jul 2010 Preparation of brief for Crown House being prepared</p>	
SCR-RP/9b/i That in order to provide more premises for business incubation and move-on accommodation, that - (i) Where empty properties exist in the Town, investment is sought to convert them into appropriate facilities.	SCR-RP/9b/i/ii Single Programme funding has been secured for the purchase and demolition of the Crown Buildings in Surtees Street with the potential of a new build centre in the future (subject to funding) which would effectively form the 3rd stage in terms of development for the Incubation Strategy.	Mick Emerson	31 Mar 2011	31 Mar 2011	<p>10 Jan 2011 The project is ongoing and the development brief being prepared, along with considering options for alternate delivery mechanisms</p> <p>17 Sep 2010 Ongoing development of the brief is being undertaken - progress is on track, but slow due to the changes in the wider regeneration landscape</p> <p>02 Aug 2010 Consideration of the type of facilities being developed</p>	<div> <div>70%</div> <div>Assigned</div> </div>

7.2 Appendix A

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-RP/9b/ii That in order to provide more premises for business incubation and move-on accommodation, that - (ii) The feasibility of utilising Section 106 Agreements for the development of appropriate facilities is investigated.	SCR-RP/9b/ii s106 are already being utilised where appropriate and could be considered within the Incubation System – although this needs to be considered in line with other strategic objectives which the Council seeks to address through the use of these agreements (worklessness, environmental improvements, security issues)	Mick Emerson	31 Mar 2011	31 Mar 2011	07 Mar 2011 Live run of the workflow now in final preparation - to be completed by end March	<div><div></div></div> 30% Assigned
					10 Jan 2011 Roll out of the pilot system continues	
					17 Sep 2010 Pilot system now developed and introduced to relevant council officers in advance of roll out	
					02 Aug 2010 System being piloted through NEIP	
SCR-RP/9c/ii That local schools are encouraged to embrace incubator business opportunities through - (ii) Investigating the role of local business representatives as e-mentors.	SCR-RP/9c/ii As a means of maintaining momentum, consideration of if a system of e-mentoring could be successful with the aim of piloting activity within one of the schools.	Mick Emerson	31 Mar 2011	31 Mar 2011	10 Jan 2011 Activity needs to be considered in the wider landscape of enterprise support	<div><div></div></div> 30% Assigned
					17 Sep 2010 Tall Ships now completed - looking to develop pilot activity	
					02 Aug 2010 Plans to be developed post Tall Ships	

Year 2009/10

Investigation The Hartlepool Transport Interchange

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-RP/8d That a process is put in place to regularly review and keep Members informed of the development	SCR-RP/8d Circulation update to be provided to Members, including: - plans, progress report and timeline performance.	Peter Frost; Alastair Smith	30 Apr 2010	30 Apr 2011	07 Mar 2011 The removal of supported bus services from the end of March means that a number of operators will no longer	<div><div></div></div> 50% Assigned

7.2 Appendix A

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
of the Hartlepool Transport Interchange with particular reference to usage and transport operator linkage.					be running buses through the Interchange. It has therefore proved even more difficult to arrange a meeting with the operators. A date will be booked during April and all appropriate operators invited to attend, despite the lack of interest so far.	
					19 Jan 2011 No update to report as yet. There has been a delay arranging the meeting due to lack of interest at first, but this is now expected to take place by the end of January. An update based on the findings from the meeting will be circulated shortly afterwards.	
					21 Oct 2010 A meeting is arranged with all current and potential operators using the Interchange. Update to Members will be issued following this meeting.	
					18 Aug 2010 Interchange official opening took place at end of July. Next quarterly update to Members due at end of October.	

Year 2006/07**Investigation** Railway Approaches

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-RP/2b That the Authority reports incidences of graffiti and litter along the Railway Approaches and liaises with Network Rail about these where appropriate.	SCR-RP/2b Introduce regular liaison meetings and prepare action plan to remove existing graffiti and protocols for reporting incidents.	Craig Thelwell	01 Sep 2007	01 Sep 2007	30 Apr 2010 Protocol in place to ensure swift response to incidents of graffiti, fly tipping and littering. Since the introduction of the protocol Network Rail have responded well to incidents. Site visits held with Northern Rail where necessary.	<div><div>100%</div></div> Completed

Year 2006/07**Investigation** Youth Unemployment

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-RP/3g Identifying where there are future opportunities for the number of Modern Apprenticeships to be increased within the public, private and voluntary sector (with a specific review of Hartlepool Borough Council and the Primary Care Trust).	SCR-RP/3g Economic Development commissioned a consultant to identify if there are future opportunities to increase the number of Modern Apprenticeships within the public, private and voluntary sector. A proposed action currently being assessed is the development of a blueprint for HBC to facilitate another organisation to take on the role of a Group Training Association (GTA). A GTA is highlighted within the Modern apprenticeships Apprenticeship Task Force report as bringing together	Patrick Wilson	01 Apr 2008	01 Apr 2008	30 Apr 2010 A consultant has completed report including how to increase the number of modern apprenticeships. This report has been completed and presented to external funding providers with a view to securing funding in future years.	<div><div>100%</div></div> Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
	<p>employers in a locality to share the costs and administrative burden of running an apprenticeship programme which has encouraged many smaller companies to take on apprenticeships pg21, (July 2005). Interest and support has been expressed from partners including HBC and the Primary Care Trust) for an intermediary body to support both the employer and the young person. Discussions are currently ongoing with the LSC in relation to funding the start up for a GTA. A host organisation is still to be identified who could become a GTA 'Ambassador' but it is proposed that if start up funding is secured then it should be utilised to employ an Intermediary worker. This individual would be employed by the host organisation who would liaise with a number of employers within a specific geographical area or across a number of sectors. In Australia, similar schemes such as Group Training Companies are running successfully. The proposed GTA would provide a similar scheme to the Australian model which provides core</p>					

7.2 Appendix A

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
	<p>services to the employer including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arranging and monitoring apprenticeships training; - Arranging job rotation; and - Mentoring (for apprentice and employer) <p>For sustainability of the GTA, the consultant is also evaluating the feasibility of charging employers a small cost recovery charge for providing this service. An Employer event in February 2008 is being arranged through Worksmart to promote the benefits of the introduction of a GTA including support to employers from Small to Medium Sized (SMEs) companies to offer apprenticeships and mentoring and support (for the apprentice and employer).</p>					


Year 2007/08

Investigation Availability of Good Quality Affordable Rented Social Accommodation

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-RP/4b That as part of the review of the local planning policy, provision be made for the identification of suitable sites for the	SCR-RP/4b/i	Andrew Carter	01 Mar 2010	01 Mar 2010	07 Mar 2011 The Housing Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) is no longer being progressed as a separate document. The Housing	<div>100%</div> Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
provision of affordable housing.	borough within which an element of affordable housing will be provided through the Affordable Housing Development Plan Document (see recommendation G). In accordance with LDF procedure this will follow on from the Core Strategy.				<p>Allocations DPD has been moved and incorporated into the Core Strategy Preferred Options DPD. The Core Strategy will replace the relevant policies in the existing Local Plan and is planned, in the Local Development Scheme, to be adopted in September 2012. Cabinet have agreed the approach to incorporate the Housing Allocations DPD into the Core Strategy.</p> <p>23 Feb 2010 Work progressing on evidence gathering for the Housing Allocations DPD including Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). Identification of specific sites for affordable housing forms part of this work. Changes in Planning Regs relating to plan process mean Submission date for DPD will be Dec 2010, although draft new housing allocations and percentage requirements for affordable housing will have been established in advance of this. [update]SHLAA to be reported to Cabinet 14 December</p>	



7.2 Appendix A

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					and Planning Committee 6 January 2010. Affordable Housing DPD Preferred Options out for public consultation 31 October 2009 - 4 January 2010. Housing Allocations DPD to be published September 2011 as set out in the 2009 Local Development Scheme.	
SCR-RP/4b That as part of the review of the local planning policy, provision be made for the identification of suitable sites for the provision of affordable housing.	SCR-RP/4b/ii The affordable housing Development Plan Document will seek to ensure appropriate provision of affordable housing on individual sites. See recommendation 4g.	Andrew Carter	01 Mar 2010	01 Mar 2010	<p>07 Mar 2011 The Affordable Housing Development Plan Document (DPD) is no longer being progressed as a separate document. The policies established in the Affordable Housing DPD have been moved and incorporated into the Core Strategy Preferred Options DPD. The Core Strategy will replace the relevant policies in the existing Local Plan and is planned, in the Local Development Scheme, to be adopted in September 2012. Cabinet have agreed the approach to incorporate the Affordable Housing DPD into the Core Strategy.</p> <p>13 Apr 2010 The Affordable Housing DPD was subject to public consultation ending in early January 2010.</p>	 100% Completed

7.2 Appendix A

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					<p>Responses from the consultation have been considered. Advice from Government Office is to merge the DPD with the Core Strategy. This request is being considered and a report will be made to Cabinet in Summer 2010 with a recommendation whether to merge the documents or to proceed with the separate DPD.</p> <p>23 Feb 2010 The Affordable Housing DPD has been subject to public consultation. An Economic Viability Assessment has been prepared prior to the preferred options being selected to form the basis of the new policy to ensure appropriate provision of affordable housing on individual sites. The Economic Viability Assessment has been included at the request of Government Office NE as DPD's in other authorities have been found to be 'unsound' by the Planning Inspectorate. The timetable for completing the DPD has therefore been rescheduled with the draft Document</p>	

7.2 Appendix A

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					expected to be complete in April 2010. This is reflected in reports to Cabinet and Government Office.[update]The Affordable Housing DPD is currently subject to Public consultation 31 October 2009 - 4 January 2010. Publication of Affordable Housing DPD in April 2010.	
SCR-RP/4e That ways of working more closely in partnership with RSL's for the provision of affordable rented social accommodation in the town, and the development of opportunities contained within the Green Paper, be explored.	SCR-RP/4e/i Establish a more structured and proactive approach to half yearly review and update meetings with RSL's to tie in with Housing Corporation bidding rounds.	Penny Garner-Carpenter	01 Oct 2008	01 Oct 2008	30 Apr 2010 Regular meetings held around bidding rounds to fit with new Housing Corporation timetable and processes.	 100% Completed
SCR-RP/4e That ways of working more closely in partnership with RSL's for the provision of affordable rented social accommodation in the town, and the development of opportunities contained within the	SCR-RP/4e/ii Report to members on the Housing Green Paper for example on the impact of Local Housing Companies.	Penny Garner-Carpenter	31 Mar 2009	31 Mar 2009	30 Apr 2010 The implications of the housing green paper have been assessed following the Housing green paper and housing act and the very significant change in market conditions, a report is proposed for Q1 in the context of new, emerging initiatives. A number of	 100% Completed

7.2 Appendix A

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
Green Paper, be explored.					sites have been examined in partnership with locally based registered social landlords. The scale of land available makes an Local Housing Company an unlikely vehicle.	

Year 2008/09

Investigation Hartlepool Borough Council's Community CCTV Provision

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-RP/6f That a trial of 'Talking Cameras' in Church Street / York Road be explored.	SCR-RP/6f Establish sites for 'talking cameras'	Peter Gouldsbro	30 Apr 2009	01 Apr 2010	<p>07 Mar 2011 System fully installed and operational. Trials now underway.</p> <p>15 Apr 2010 Installation deferred pending relocation of CCTV Monitoring Centre - completed early March '10. Equipment installed with exception of fibre which will be run with new Transport Interchange I.T. fibres - scheduled April '10. Operator training in use scheduled. Full operation early May.</p> <p>25 Feb 2010 Equipment available .Relocation of Hartlepool CCTV Control Centre, scheduled Feb. 2010, advocates new installation of operator equipment more</p>	<div>100%</div> Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					practical at new location. Transport Interchange commencement allows simultaneous fibres works for talking and new cameras installation. Report to Portfolio Holder to be presented.	

Year 2008/09**Investigation** The Marketing of Hartlepool

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-RP/7d/i That the signage into and around Hartlepool be:- (i) Reviewed, with particular reference to interpretation signage.	SCR-RP/7d/i Review and evaluate the tourism related signage and interpretation and produce rationalisation proposals for budget consideration.	Rob Smith	31 Dec 2009	30 Apr 2010	<p>18 Oct 2010 The review and evaluation of tourism related signage is now complete. Rationalisation and de-cluttering of redundant signage is now taking place. The installation of new brown tourism signage is complete. Pedestrian signage within the town centre is being reviewed as part of the ISQ Gateway scheme. Additional interpretation points including information terminals are currently being examined.</p> <p>13 Jul 2010 The Brown Tourism Sgnage Plan was reported to the Culture Leisure and Tourism Portfolio</p>	<div>100%</div> Completed

7.2 Appendix A

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					meeting on the 4th May 2010, and the Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio on the 17th May 2010. The Brown Tourism signs are currently being installed with works due to be complete by the Tall Ships Event in August 2010. Pedestrian and Interpretation signage will now be examined.	
					30 Mar 2010 Detailed proposals for locations and content of new signage under review prior to costing and then reporting to Portfolio Holder(s), in first quarter 2010-2011.	
					25 Feb 2010 Inventory of existing brown signage and directional signage completed, proposed principles for rationalisation developed, feasibility and costing of necessary revisions underway with a view to reporting to Portfolio Holder(s) in final quarter, 2009-10.	

Year 2009/10

Investigation Hartlepool's Business Incubation System

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
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7.2 Appendix A

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-RP/9b/i That in order to provide more premises for business incubation and move-on accommodation, that - (i) Where empty properties exist in the Town, investment is sought to convert them into appropriate facilities.	SCR-RP/9b/i/i	Mick Emerson	31 Mar 2011	31 Mar 2011	10 Jan 2011 Ongoing although SCRAPT monies still being provided	<div><div>100%</div></div> Completed
					17 Sep 2010 Confirmation of ongoing SCRAPT monies agreed	
					02 Aug 2010 Potential changes to SCRAPT being considered	
SCR-RP/9c/i That local schools are encouraged to embrace incubator business opportunities through - (i) Invitation to businesses to link with local schools providing students with an insight into entrepreneurial activities.	SCR-RP/9c/i	Mick Emerson	30 Nov 2010	30 Nov 2010	07 Mar 2011 Links have been developed between the Enterprise Centre businesses and local students which will be ongoing	<div><div>100%</div></div> Completed
					10 Jan 2011 Catcote school supported - further schools also to be supported although priorities need to be considered going forward.	
					17 Sep 2010 Catcote School supported through Tall Ships - further schools to be supported going forward	
					02 Aug 2010 Work with Catcote school ongoing	
SCR-RP/9d That a feasibility study be undertaken into promoting the support available through Hartlepool's Business Incubation System via	SCR-RP/9d	Mick Emerson	30 Sep 2010	30 Sep 2010	10 Jan 2011 Utilise the "Buy Local" programme going forward	<div><div>100%</div></div> Completed
					17 Sep 2010 Further extension of Buy Local scheme and the use of the Indoor Market for	

7.2 Appendix A

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
exhibitions / stands in vacant shops.					test trading 02 Aug 2010 Buy Local campaign being extended to increase awareness of support	

Year 2009/10

Investigation The Hartlepool Transport Interchange

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-RP/8c That a review is carried out with all transport operators as potential users of the Hartlepool Transport Interchange into the plans for layover areas and loading / unloading bays, with the aim of maximising out of hours usage.	SCR-RP/8c Agreed on strategy for maximising use with Taxi operators. Coach stop included in design and function requirements.	Peter Frost; Alastair Smith	31 Jul 2010	31 Jul 2010	18 Aug 2010 Coach stop, loading/ unloading bay, drop off point and taxi ranks are now in use. A pilot scheme is being run in conjunction with the Police for a marshalled taxi rank on Church Street on weekend nights which, if successful, will encourage taxis to use this area rather than the Interchange.	<div><div>100%</div></div> Completed

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

31 March 2011



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO SERVICES
AVAILABLE TO MALE VICTIMS DOMESTIC ABUSE --
ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with additional evidence in relation to the ongoing inquiry into 'Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Abuse'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 3 February 2011 a domestic violence campaign poster was discussed as part of the evidence gathered for the investigation into 'Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Abuse'. The poster concerned is attached as **Appendix A** to this report for Members consideration.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Members of the Forum note the content of this report and a copy of the poster attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

Contact Officer:- Elaine Hind – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523647

Email: elaine.hind@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (i) Minutes of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum of 3 February 2011.

Time to escape?

You can do it, we can help.



harbour
working for safer communities



Safer
Hartlepool

If you are suffering from domestic violence call 0845 602 7308.

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

31 MARCH 2011



Report of: Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

Subject: DRAFT FINAL REPORT – SERVICES AVAILABLE
TO MALE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the findings of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum following its investigation into 'Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Abuse'.

2. SETTING THE SCENE

- 2.1 At the meeting of this Forum on 8 July 2010, Members determined their work programme for the 2010/11 Municipal Year. The issue of 'Domestic Abuse Services available to Male Victims' was selected as the second Scrutiny topic for consideration during the current Municipal Year.
- 2.2 The Home Office definition of Domestic Violence is "any threatening behaviour, abuse or abuse between adults who are or have been in a relationship, or between family members. It can affect anybody, regardless of their gender or sexuality. The abuse can be psychological, physical, sexual or emotional."
- 2.3 According to Home Office Statistics for 2008/09 more than one in four women (28%) and around one in six men (16%) had experienced domestic abuse (any emotional, financial or physical abuse, sexual assault or stalking by a partner or family member) since the age of 16. These figures are equivalent to an estimated 4.5 million female victims of domestic abuse and 2.6 million male victims. Women were significantly more likely to tell someone about the abuse than men (81% of women compared with 59% of men), including telling the police.

3. OVERALL AIM OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 The overall aim of the Scrutiny investigation was to assess the availability, ease of access and effectiveness of services provided to male victims of domestic abuse in Hartlepool.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

- 4.1 The Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny investigation were as outlined below:-
- (a) To gain an understanding of the overall aim of services provided to male victims of domestic abuse and what positive outcomes look like;
 - (b) To examine how domestic abuse services for male victims are currently provided in Hartlepool, including the input of partner organisations;
 - (c) To assess the effectiveness of the delivery of services provided to male victims of domestic abuse in Hartlepool in comparison to local and national baselines;
 - (d) To gain an understanding of the impact of current and future budget pressures on the way in which male domestic abuse services are provided in Hartlepool;
 - (e) To explore how male domestic abuse services could be provided in the future, giving due regard to:
 - (i) Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the way in which the service is currently provided; and
 - (ii) If / how the service could be provided at a reduced financial cost (within the resources available in the current economic climate).

5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

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

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

Resident Representatives:

Ted Jackson, John Maxwell and Angie Wilcox.

6. METHODS OF INVESTIGATION

- 6.1 Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum met formally from 20 January 2011 to 31 March 2011 to discuss and receive evidence relating to this investigation. A detailed record of the issues raised during these meetings is available from the Council's Democratic Services.
- 6.2 A brief summary of the methods of investigation are outlined below:-
- (a) Detailed Officer presentations and reports supplemented by verbal evidence;
 - (b) Presentations and verbal evidence from representatives of Cleveland Police, Harbour, Housing Hartlepool and Victim Support;
 - (c) Written evidence received from the Probation Service, Social Services and the Youth Offending Service;
 - (d) Information from Durham County Council Scrutiny Sub-committee for Strong Healthy and Safe Communities' investigation entitled 'A Hidden Truth... A Scrutiny Report about Domestic Abuse in County Durham';
 - (e) Statistics and case studies from the Mankind Initiative;
 - (f) Details of Brighton and Hove's Citywide Strategy for Men and Boys, provided by The Men's Network;
 - (g) Case studies received from local residents.

For help and assistance with domestic abuse issues please contact:

Cleveland Police

Tel: 01642 302168
web: www.cleveland.police.uk

**Safer Hartlepool
Partnership**

Tel: 01429 270110 (24 Hour)
web: www.saferhartlepool.co.uk

Harbour

Tel: 01429 277508 (24 Hour)
e-mail: hartlepoolrefuge@myharbour.org.uk
web: www.myharbour.org.uk

Victim Support

Tel: 01429 221920
web: www.victimsupport.org.uk

The ManKind Initiative

Tel: 01823 334244 (Mon-Fri 10am-4pm & 7pm-9pm)
web: www.mankind.org.uk

The Men's Advice Line

Tel: 0808 8010327 (Mon-Fri 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm)
e-mail: info@mensadviceline.org.uk
web: www.mensadviceline.org.uk

Broken Rainbow (LGBT)

Tel: 0300 9995428 (Mon & Thur 2-8pm Wed 10-5pm)
web: www.broken-rainbow.org.uk

IN AN EMERGENCY RING 999

FINDINGS

7 OVERALL AIM OF THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO MALE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE AND WHAT POSITIVE OUTCOMES LOOK LIKE

- 7.1 The Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum gathered evidence regarding the aim of the provision of services to male victims of domestic abuse and what positive outcomes look like. Information considered by Members is as follows:-

British Crime Survey Statistics

- 7.2 At the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 3 February 2011 Members considered a report by The ManKind Initiative entitled 'Male Victims – Domestic and Partner Abuse Statistics'. This report utilised data from the British Crime Survey (2008/09) which is based on anonymous large scale surveys to address under reporting issues, it also details Ministry of Justice figures in relation to convictions.

- 7.3 The report detailed the following statistics:-

- 1 in 6 men between 16 and 59 would suffer domestic abuse in their lifetime;
- In 2008/09 31 males were murdered by a partner or ex/partner. This equates to 1 man every 12 days;
- The percentage of gay or bi-sexual men who suffer domestic abuse is 8.9% double that of heterosexual men (4.1%);
- The number of women convicted of perpetrating domestic abuse has trebled in the 5 years between 2004/5 (806 cases) and 2008/9 (2,968 cases).

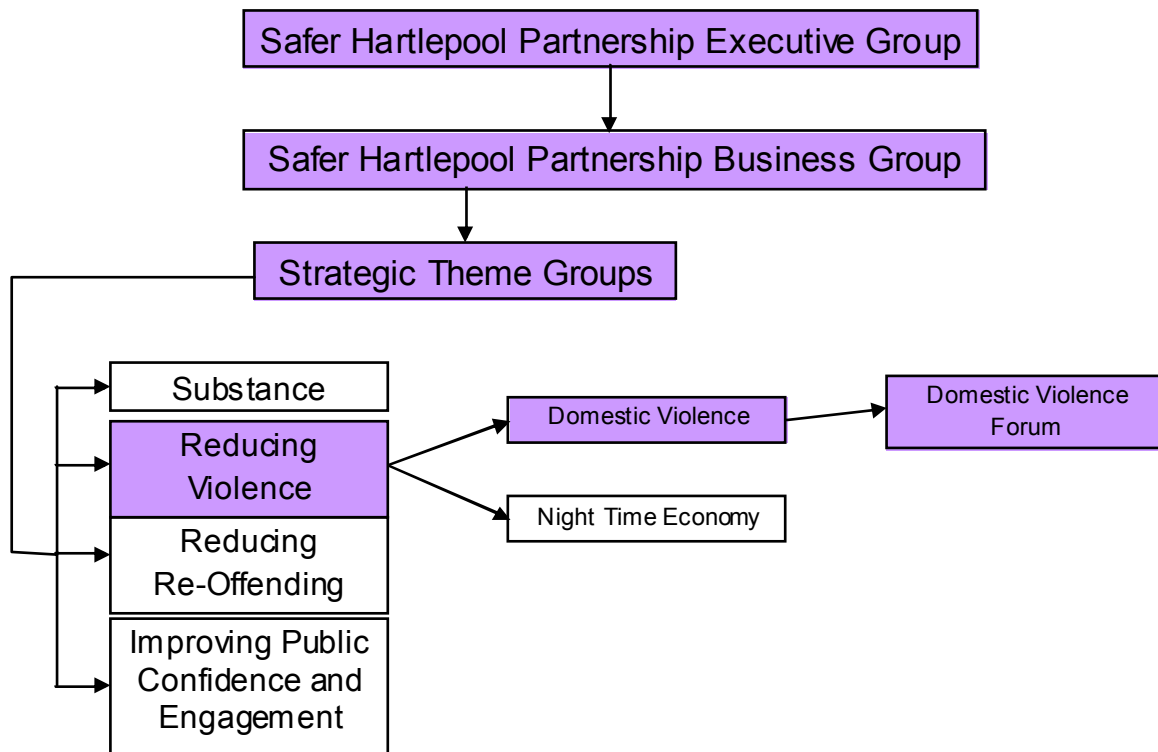
Evidence from the Community Safety Team

- 7.4 The Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum met on 3 February 2011 where Members received detailed evidence from the Community Safety Manager regarding the Safer Hartlepool Partnership, details of domestic related incidents and crimes reported to Cleveland Police, broken down by gender and age where possible. The Forum also received details of a recent mapping exercise undertaken to determine how domestic abuse services link together.

- 7.5 During the presentation by the Community Safety Manager, Members learned that the Safer Hartlepool Partnership has a Domestic Violence Co-ordinator shared with Stockton, plus an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor. The Forum was also advised that Hartlepool has a Specialist Domestic Violence Court and that the Safer Hartlepool Partnership has strong links with Harbour (an organisation offering services addressing domestic abuse) and criminal justice agencies.

- 7.6 Members were advised of the partnership structure in place and that reducing violence was one of the strategic themes for the partnership. There were also strong links to the night time economy and alcohol streams.

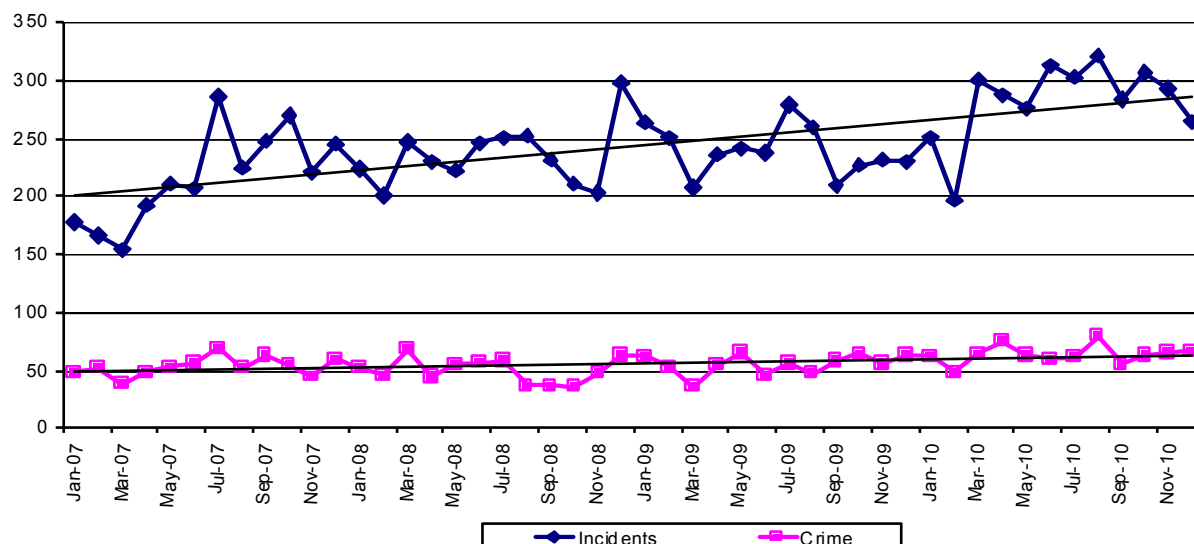
Safer Hartlepool Partnership Structure



- 7.7 Members learned of the numbers of domestic related incidents and crimes reported to Cleveland Police (see table 1 overleaf) and were advised that whilst the trends were increasing, that this may be due to an increased confidence in reporting such issues. Members also heard that there was a four year domestic violence strategy in place which may also have encouraged an increase in reporting.

Table 1

**DOMESTIC RELATED INCIDENTS AND CRIMES REPORTED TO CLEVELAND POLICE
 IN HARTLEPOOL
 JANUARY 2007 - DECEMBER 2010**

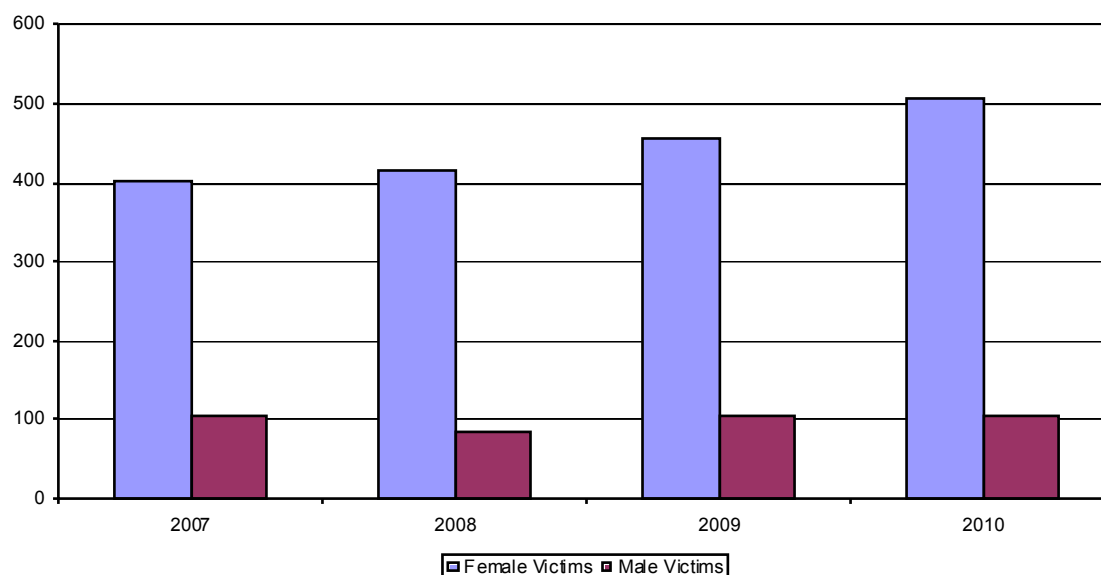


7.8 The Forum was very interested to learn of the gender split of victims of domestic related crime in Hartlepool between the periods of January 2007 and December 2010 (see table 2 overleaf). Members also noted that current incident recording mechanisms do not detail the gender of the caller, or of those involved irrespective of the incident type, e.g. anti-social behaviour incidents, domestic incidents, road traffic incidents. They learned that gender analysis of victims of domestic violence/abuse makes use of recorded crime data which provides detailed information in regard to the victim and perpetrator.

7.9 Members also noted that this data analysis excludes those offences against the state (Regina) and those domestic related crimes involving Police Officers, for example crime type assault on constable. Members also learned that in approximately 25 percent of cases an incident reported to the Police actually turns out to be a criminal offence and is therefore classified as a crime.

Table 2

GENDER OF DOMESTIC RELATED CRIME VICTIMS IN HARTLEPOOL
JANUARY 2007 - DECEMBER 2010



7.10 The Forum was informed of the victim profile in Hartlepool and noted the following:-

- Over the past four years nearly 2 in 10 victims of domestic related crime were male;
- The majority of male victims were aged between 17-24 years and 38-45 years;
- Domestic abuse is a factor in 49% of Youth Offending Service clients' lives;
- Over the last four years there have been 455 individuals subject to two or more domestic related crimes, of this total 44 (9.6%) were male.

Domestic Violence Victim Profile in Hartlepool

	YEAR				
VICTIM GENDER	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
Female Victims	401	415	456	507	1779
Male Victims	105	83	106	105	399
Victim Total	506	498	562	612	2178
% Proportion Male Victims	21%	17%	19%	17%	18%

7.11 Members were advised by the Community Safety Manager that the proportion of male victims in Hartlepool was below the national average of 26% suggested by the British Crime Survey which includes unrecorded crimes, but expressed surprise at how high the figures for male victims in Hartlepool were. Members noted that victims still felt that there was a stigma attached to reporting domestic abuse incidents. Members of the

Forum also felt that there was likely to be under reporting in all areas, but that this could be a significant problem with male victims.

- 7.12 The Forum was interested to learn that when looking at domestic incidents as a whole in Hartlepool the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator was not always a partner or husband or wife, but could also be a sibling, parent, child or another family member (as detailed in table 3 below). Members also noted that the acquaintance category could mean ex-partners or other family members.

Table 3 - Victim/Perpetrator Relationship in Hartlepool

Relationship to Perpetrator	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total	% Total
Acquaintance	13	17	21	16	67	22%
Spouse/co-habitee	12	5	17	11	45	15%
Other family member	7	9	7	12	35	12%
Ex Partner	8	5	8	13	34	11%
Parent of offender	8	3	8	10	29	10%
Boyfriend/girlfriend	8	3	5	12	28	9%
Sibling of offender	3	5	5	8	21	7%
Child of offender	2	4	9	5	20	7%

- 7.13 Members were interested to hear that a Domestic Violence Development Group was currently meeting, chaired by the Chief Executive of Hartlepool Council and including representatives from the Council, the local Primary Care Trust, Cleveland Police, the Probation Service and Harbour. This group has mapped out service provision and potential drop out points where victims disengage from services. The group were looking at ways these drop out rates could be reduced and will also be contributing to the development of the next Safer Hartlepool Partnership Domestic Violence Strategy to run from 2011.

Positive Outcomes

- 7.14 At the meeting of the Forum on 3 February 2011 Members were please to hear a case study from Harbour highlighting the positive outcomes that can be achieved when male victims of domestic abuse engage with the services available to them.
- 7.15 The male in question had been forced to live in a caravan in the garden of the family home, eventually he was referred to Harbour and was overcome with emotion that someone had listen to his story and had believed him. As a result of working with Harbour the man is now back in the family home and has parenting rights with his children.

8 HOW SERVICES ARE CURRENTLY PROVIDED TO MALE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE IN HARTLEPOOL

- 8.1 The Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum gathered evidence from a number of different sources in relation to the services available to male victims of domestic abuse in Hartlepool. Information considered by Members is detailed below:-

Evidence from Cleveland Police

- 8.2 The Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum met on 3 February 2011 and received evidence from a representative from Cleveland Police with responsibility for the North Tees Vulnerability Unit.
- 8.3 The Detective Inspector advised the Forum that in July 2009 two vulnerability units had been set up by Cleveland Police, one north and one south of the Tees. The north unit covered Hartlepool and Stockton, has 24 staff and is based at Billingham. The units remit includes issues of child and adult safeguarding, child abuse and domestic violence. Officers who serve with the unit receive training to national guidelines.
- 8.4 Members learned that in the first instance local uniformed officers respond to domestic violence calls. All domestic violence calls are treated as a high priority and must have attendance.
- 8.5 The Forum noted that Hartlepool Police received approximately 200-250 reports of domestic violence per month in Hartlepool and about 2500 calls every year, these figures include a repeat rate which can mean multiple calls to the same address. Each police response team (i.e. a shift) has a champion who is trained on domestic violence and officers are encouraged to take action to ensure both a sensitive and positive response, but they can only make an arrest when there are sufficient grounds to do so.
- 8.6 Following an incident, officers complete a G166 (Domestic Violence Report) which records all evidence gathered. Following the completion of this report a risk assessment is performed. The risk assessments are done in 'hot' time and officers spend time with victim and run through series of questions linked to a domestic abuse stalking and harassment (DASH) model.
- 8.7 Members learned that within the vulnerability unit there are 3 risk assessment and safety planning officers who work 7 days a week and risk assess all forms received in the previous 24 hrs. These officers look at records for previous attendances at the address and risk assess the incident as standard, medium or high. If the incident is assessed as high risk it is passed to the Detective Inspector and would be taken to a Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) should it be felt that there was a risk of serious harm to the victim.

- 8.8 MARACs deal with the highest risk cases and the group contains representatives from the Police, Harbour, Housing, Probation, Children's services and Health. Normally about 10 cases are discussed each meeting. In 2010 155 cases passed through the North Tees MARAC which meets every 3 weeks, of these 3 were male victims. The vast majority of victims at risk of serious harm are female, however in 2011 there have already been 2 cases involving male victims before the MARAC, both of whom have been the victim of stabbings. The MARAC has met twice in 2011.
- 8.9 Issues dealt with by the MARACs often involve chaotic families, therefore, requiring a multi-agency approach to solve numerous contributory issues, including violence, alcohol and drugs. Actions are set with regard to each case which must be completed within 2 weeks. The completion of these actions is monitored through an independent organisation sponsored by the Home Office called CAADA (Co-ordinate Action Against Domestic Abuse) and the MARAC is held accountable by CAADA.
- 8.10 The Forum heard that from an analysis of the past weeks' G166 domestic violence forms received in Hartlepool, approximately 15 percent of cases involve male victims. The Detective Inspector advised the Forum that whilst the cases include heterosexual and homosexual partner abuse, the vast majority recorded as male victims of domestic abuse were parent on child and sibling cases. Where males are recorded as the victim during an incident the biggest single defining category is over child access concerns.
- 8.11 When Police Officers attend a domestic violence incident the gender of the victim is not an issue, the officers must deal with the risk levels of the case and are sensitive to embarrassment factors that can be felt by both sexes. Record are kept of how many same sex relationship incidents there are but it is not recorded whether this is a male or female only relationship.
- 8.12 Repeat rates for domestic violence in Hartlepool are reducing; a year ago approximately 50% of domestic violence reports were to addresses which had been attended by Police Officers on one or more previous occasion, this has reduced to 23% currently. The Detective Inspector advised Members that it was unlikely repeat figures will reduce much lower than this level.
- 8.13 Members were keen to discuss the use of 'head cams' for officers attending domestic violence crime scenes, to enable greater detail of the incident to be recorded. Members were advised that head cameras were brought in but there were issues with the reliability. Support for limited funding has been agreed once the reliability issues have been overcome. The Forum was informed that at the moment rather than relying on head cams, officers take a lot of digital photographs at the scene, before the scene of crime officers attend. Officers are also trained to gain as much information and detail as possible at the initial attendance, as this is vital in bringing unsupported prosecutions against perpetrators.

- 8.14 Members were advised that the Police have no powers to breathalyse or drug test at incidents but drugs and alcohol are suspected to be a contributory factor in approximately 35 to 40 percent of cases.

Evidence from Harbour

- 8.15 At the meeting of the Forum on 3 February 2011 Members were delighted to receive evidence from the Director of Harbour, who provided Members with an overview of the support services provided to victims and perpetrators of domestic violence. Members were advised that the services provided are available to both males and females. The organisation changed its name from Women's Aid to reflect that its services are not gender specific.
- 8.16 Members of the Forum learned that Harbour employed a domestic violence advocate to support victims' cases at the MARAC and the special domestic violence court in Hartlepool; this was often the first point of contact for the victim and was not gender specific.
- 8.17 The Forum was advised that in 2007 a male worker was appointed by Harbour in an attempt to encourage more male victims to come forward. The post was funded for 2 years, during which time the take up of services by male victims did not increase. An analysis of the information provided by males who did come forward pointed to shame and embarrassment as some of the reasons for not engaging with support services, additionally men did not feel that they would be believed and were often of the impression that services available were only for women.
- 8.18 Members learned that Harbour carry out a lot of work with young male victims, where the perpetrator is often their father or their mother's partner. Young men react to the abuse their mother is suffering and become subject to the violence themselves. Members acknowledged issues surrounding male victims of domestic violence could be very complex.
- 8.19 The Forum was advised that there were difficulties in retaining male victims in programmes once they had engaged, females tended to like to engage into a process and have support in a one to one or group setting, where as men were less keen to engage initially and often disengage not having completed a programme as they felt that they were 'alright now'.
- 8.20 Members were informed that there are five male refuges in the country (one of which is in Wales) and that the nearest to Hartlepool is in Yorkshire. Harbour work with male victims to provide support to find accommodation, though this is generally bed and breakfast accommodation, which can cause child access problems.
- 8.21 The Forum were pleased to note that Harbour is working with Housing Hartlepool to ensure there is as much support as possible for male victims with housing problems. The Forum was also informed that Harbour has plans in place to be able to offer accommodation to men and their children in the near future, at no extra cost. Members also noted that there was

insufficient demand for a male refuge in the area so the creation of one was not financially justifiable.

Evidence from Housing Hartlepool

- 8.22 At the meeting of the Forum on 3 February 2011 the Director of Housing Services at Housing Hartlepool provided members with an overview of the services Housing Hartlepool offers to its tenants who are suffering domestic violence.
- 8.23 The Forum was advised that Housing Hartlepool is part of a multi-agency response to domestic violence and its response is not gender specific, though the implications around housing can be different with male and female victims. Housing Hartlepool had not dealt with any male victims in the past year; there had been 2 cases in the previous 3 years.
- 8.24 Members heard that Housing Hartlepool recommends that tenancies are let in both parties' names as a joint tenancy, then if there are any issues with domestic violence a female can terminate her half of the agreement which effectively ends the tenancy and removes the interest of the male perpetrator. If the victim is male the issue is more complicated, the organisation would work with the male victim if he could no longer remain at the property and have a duty to find them suitable accommodation as a responsible landlord, Members noted that there was no statutory duty to do so.
- 8.25 Members learned that complexities arise when there are children at the property as the family home is seen as key to the children's welfare. Members were advised that male on male abuse such as father on son and siblings were not reported unless it was as a noise or disturbance problem.
- 8.26 Housing Hartlepool has a domestic abuse policy (see overleaf) that ensures tenants are aware of the behaviour expected of them; this also details Housing Hartlepool's response. Housing Hartlepool tenancy agreements also reiterate that 'a tenant or anyone living with them or visiting them must not inflict domestic violence, threaten violence or use mental, emotional or sexual abuse against their partner, ex-partner or any other member of the family'.

Housing Hartlepool Domestic Abuse Policy

Domestic Abuse Policy

Housing Hartlepool believes that no one should live in fear of violence from a spouse or partner, or any member of their household. Domestic violence is criminal, unacceptable and should not be tolerated. It's rarely a one-off event.

Violence often gets worse over time and may even result in death. Breaking this chain of violence matters to everyone, it doesn't just affect the people who are directly involved. Domestic violence can also affect neighbours and the wider community

Housing Hartlepool will offer help and support to any person suffering from or threatened with violence, whether this is physical, emotional or psychological.

8.27 The Forum heard that Housing Hartlepool will:-

- Treat all reports of domestic violence seriously;
- Ensure safety and privacy of victims is a top priority;
- Offer confidential advice over the telephone, at Housing Hartlepool's offices or via a home visit;
- Respond to all domestic violence incidents within 12 working hours;
- Offer an appointment if required within 24 hours of receiving the complaint;
- Provide advice and support to the victim/ witness throughout the case, during court hearings and post closure if required;
- Advise if other agencies need to be notified in order to protect others e.g. children;
- Agree actions on how to proceed with the case;
- Contact victims/ witnesses on a weekly basis to give updates of the case.
- Investigate thoroughly all reports of domestic violence;
- Carry out interviews in a sympathetic and supportive manner where confidentiality is guaranteed;
- Liaise with external agencies such as the police and domestic violence support groups if required;
- Discuss all the options available in regard to housing, obtaining legal advice, specialist support and advice about the victims safety;
- Consider additional security measures e.g. additional locks;
- Give priority to emergency repairs that are a result of domestic violence; and
- Take legal action against those who commit domestic violence.

8.28 Members were advised by the Director of Housing Hartlepool that the following measures are available as a course of action:-

Action which can be taken for victims of Domestic Abuse:

- Weekly support from tenancy relations and enforcement team (TRET) support officers;
- Referral to specialist support services such as Harbour;
- Anti Social Behaviour Injunction (ASBI) against perpetrator to prevent them from returning to property;
- Housing Advice to either remain in property or find suitable alternative accommodation;
- Target Hardening;
- Partnership working – MARAC referral for serious incidents.

Action which can be taken against those who commit domestic violence:

- Referral to Support Agencies e.g. Harbour, FIP to change behaviour;
- Warnings;
- Injunctions;
- Anti Social Behaviour Order (ASBO);
- Demotion of Tenancy;
- Evictions.

8.29 The Forum was advised that ASBOs and ASBIs are very effective as they are specific to the victim and the property and there is a risk of arrest attached to them.

8.30 Members learned that there were 152 referrals to Housing Hartlepool during 2010 of which 99 were referred by the Police. As mentioned under paragraph 8.23 no referrals were received relating to male victims in 2010. To date Housing Hartlepool has obtained 15 ASBIs and a number of perpetrators have served custodial sentences, the longest being 112 days. Housing Hartlepool have also delivered numerous training sessions to both Neighbourhood and Response Police departments to ensure there is a full understanding of the ASBIs and to ensure that those who breach them are brought before the courts.

Evidence from Victim Support

8.31 At the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 3 February 2011 Members were advised of the support and services offered to male victims of domestic abuse and their families by Victim Support.

8.32 The Forum was informed that Victim Support is a national charity but has local office in Hartlepool. The charity uses volunteers to engage with victims and whilst the charity do not specialise in domestic abuse, it does support people who have suffered whether directly or as a result of a family members being a victim.

- 8.33 Representatives from Victim Support advised the Forum that they found males don't always want to go to a specialist agency to help them with the abuse, as they do not recognise they are at a point where they need help. Victim Support provides the help and guidance victims often need to encourage them to engage in the services of Harbour, or to go to the Police.
- 8.34 Victim Support advised Members that, in their experience, one of the most important factors for victims is to have non judgemental, confidential support behind them. Victim Support signpost victims to agencies and supports them through the court process, acting as advocates.
- 8.35 Members of the Forum commented that there was a lack of awareness that Victim Support carried out this type of work and acknowledged that more needed to be done to provide members of the public with information on the services available to male victims of domestic abuse.
- 8.36 The Forum heard that the majority of referrals to Victim Support come from the Police, but the charity also receives 'drop ins' at it's office in Park Road and received referrals from other agencies, but acknowledged that not enough was known about the services Victim Support can provide. One of the issues that affects the work of Victim Support is that they must have permission to contact the victim and this is often not ticked on a crime report.

Evidence from the Probation Service

- 8.37 At the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 3 February 2011 Members considered evidence from the Probation Service.
- 8.38 The Forum was advised that the Probation Service supports offenders convicted of sentences greater than 12 months once released from prison on licence; it also supports offenders in the community on community sentences ordered by the court. The service works to reduce re-offending and challenge offender behaviour.
- 8.39 Members noted that Hartlepool Probation Service is not currently working with any offenders convicted of domestic abuse against men.
- 8.40 The Forum learned that prior to working with each offender an assessment process is completed, this includes questions exploring the offender's relationships. Should domestic violence issues be raised during this process (which offenders indicate may have had an impact on their own behaviour) offenders are signposted to Harbour or Hart Gables.
- 8.41 When men have been convicted of a serious domestic violence crime against women there are group programmes in place aimed at reducing the cycle of abuse e.g. the Community Domestic Violence Programme this is an accredited national programme which lasts for 26 weeks. It would not be appropriate to place a woman perpetrator or a male on male perpetrator in the same programme as males convicted of serious domestic violence

against women. The success of these programmes is monitored by re-offending rates within a 2 year period.

- 8.42 Although there are no specific accredited national programmes to deal with female and male on male perpetrators, the Probation Service would work with the individual on a one to one basis. Depending on the nature of the conviction it may be appropriate to use other offender programmes such as the CALM anger management programme.
- 8.43 Members noted that the Probation Service felt that it was likely that there is an issue around the awareness of males becoming victims of domestic violence and the Probation Service would support greater awareness raising in this area, though in the current economic climate the response to this would need to be assessed in proportion to the number of incidents.

9 EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES PROVIDED TO MALE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE IN HARTLEPOOL

- 9.1 The Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum were keen to gain an understanding of the effectiveness of the delivery of services available to male victims of domestic abuse in Hartlepool. Information considered by Members is detailed below:-

Local Case Studies

- 9.2 At the meeting of the Forum on 3 February 2011 Members considered two cases studies which had been received as a result of publicity surrounding the investigation.

Case Study 1

As a result of a press article in the Northern Echo regarding the investigation a call was received from the mother of a victim of domestic abuse. The lady in question does not have access to the internet and does not know who to approach for assistance.

Her son is married with three children under 14, two are step children from his wife's previous relationship. He is classed as the guardian of the step children.

His mother is very concerned about him and the children due to his wife's behaviour, she has encouraged him to contact a solicitor but he feels he must accept this situation as it is, for the sake of the children.

His wife is mentally and verbally abusive and violent towards her husband. She attempts to get him to hit her (which he has not done) by screaming in his face and goading him, she also monitors his phone calls.

The man in question must get up at 3 am to go to work and therefore goes to bed very early. His wife then goes out for the evening drinking and brings males home with her, often all are drunk. Her son often finds these people still at the house drunk in the morning.

The majority of the family's money is spent on the wife's drinking habit and the man's mother thinks the children are only getting a minimal amount of food.

The female threatened to leave the family home at one point but was persuaded not to by her own mother for fear of losing the house. The man does not want to leave as he fears for the children.

The lady in question would like assistance for her son and does not know who to turn to.

Case Study 2

As a result of press coverage received on the BBC Tees website a call was received from a male who would like to Forum to hear his experience.

The male was a victim of domestic abuse a number of years ago at the hand of his former partner. He suffered physical and mental abuse for approximately 6 years, which once took place in front of his children.

The male believes a friend told the Police about the abuse on his behalf, he did not approach any agencies himself and no action was taken.

Following the breakdown in his relationship the children stayed with his partner, he once encountered them in the street and his children expressed their surprise as they had been told that he was dead.

The man in question would like to thank the Forum for looking into the issue and expressed his gratitude that male victims of domestic abuse were being considered.

- 9.3 Members commented that despite the efforts of the agencies attending the meeting and the availability of services, there was still work to do to get information out to people as to who they can contact for help with domestic abuse issues.
- 9.4 Members of the Forum questioned whether there were any patterns to domestic abuse in Hartlepool and were advised by the Detective Inspector responsible for the North Tees Vulnerability Unit that whilst there were generally no patterns to domestic abuse in Hartlepool, there were peaks around certain times of the year and events, such as the recent football World Cup.

- 9.5 Members commented that previous campaign posters were generally aimed at female victims and raised concerns that this may contribute to the reluctance of male victims to report domestic abuse incidents.

2010 Campaign Poster



- 9.6 The Forum was advised by the Director of Harbour that the poster discussed (see above) was gender neutral, but it was acknowledged that this may have been too subtle.
- 9.7 Members felt that a more broad campaign could be undertaken at a local level to encourage and promote the services available to male victims of domestic abuse and encourage more male victims to come forward. Members also felt the use of male images would be unusual and may

reignite the debate about domestic abuse, encouraging victims from both sexes and all backgrounds to come forward. Cleveland Police agreed that there was no reason not to undertake such a campaign, but that this was a matter which must be supported by the Safer Hartlepool Partnership.

- 9.8 The Community Safety Manager agreed that the use of different images may demonstrate the impact of domestic violence in a new way and that there was a need to look at future campaigns to ensure messages were drip fed throughout the year, building on previous campaigns and reinforcing messages that had already been conveyed, whilst reaching groups who may previously not have engaged with campaigns.

Evidence from Harbour

- 9.9 At the meeting of the Forum on 3 February 2011 Members heard evidence from Harbour. Members were keen to explore how effective partnership working arrangements were to provide services to male victims of domestic violence and questioned whether the provision of services was fragmented.
- 9.10 The Forum was advised by the Director of Harbour that there are comprehensive partnership working arrangements in place, but as illustrated by the Safer Hartlepool Partnership structure (see paragraph 7.6), there is a lot of work taking place across a number of areas.
- 9.11 The Forum heard that joint working arrangements are in place and work well, but the challenge to those involved was to promote the work they do. An example of the joint working arrangements in place include the partnership work between Housing Hartlepool and Harbour to bring in the ASBI which has been a very effective tool to deal with domestic violence in Housing Hartlepool's housing stock.
- 9.12 The Director of Harbour noted that the challenge going forward was for all organisations to understand they have a role to play in the domestic abuse agenda.

10 IMPACT OF CURRENT AND FUTURE BUDGET PRESSURES ON THE WAY IN WHICH MALE DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED IN HARTLEPOOL

- 10.1 Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum were keen to gain an understanding of the impact current and future budget pressures may have on the way services are provided to male victims of domestic abuse in Hartlepool. Evidence gathered on the potential impact of such budget reductions is detailed overleaf:-

Evidence from Harbour

- 10.2 During evidence received by the Forum on 3 February 2011 Members were advised that all agencies were unaware of the true extent of domestic abuse

due to unreported incidents. As the extent of female violence was unknown under reporting amongst male victims may be particularly high. The Forum were advised by the director of Harbour that there were plans in place to carry out more work in this area but there were issues around funding, which needed to be addressed before this could be moved forward.

- 10.3 Members were keen to hear how Harbour was going to deal with the current funding issues affecting all areas of society. The Director of Harbour informed the Forum that the issue of funding was put aside when determining targets and areas that need to be addressed. Harbour would tender for all work commissioned by the local authority.

Evidence from the Community Safety Team

- 10.4 At the meeting of the Forum on 3 February 2011 Members were advised by the Community Safe Manager that violence against women and girls was a priority for the Coalition Government and this should result in funding opportunities being available for domestic violence work. Domestic violence is also a priority for Hartlepool Council, as highlighted by the creation of the Domestic Violence Development Group chaired by the Chief Executive of Hartlepool Council.

Evidence from Victim Support

- 10.5 Members received evidence from Victim Support in relation to the current financial pressures on the organisation at their meeting of 3 February 2011. Victim Support advised the Forum that the services of Victim Support were reliant on central government funding which was hopefully still in place. Members were advised that the organisation had relied heavily on the work of volunteers for the last 30 years and were confident that this would continue. They were also confident that the Victim Support office in Hartlepool would be retained as this was an important part of publicising the work Victim Support carry out and engaging more people into the process.

11 HOW MALE DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES COULD BE PROVIDED IN THE FUTURE

- 11.1 Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum examined how services available to male victims of domestic abuse could be provided in the future, giving particular regard to the increased effectiveness and efficiency of provision and the potential budget pressures which may exist. The Forum considered evidence as follows:-

Evidence from Harbour

- 11.2 At the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 3 February 2011 Members were delighted to hear that Harbour were planning to offer supported housing to male victims of domestic violence

which was considered more appropriate for children than the current arrangements of bed and breakfast accommodation.

- 11.3 Members were advised that Harbour had designed a range of leaflets for men and women, but also that there was a greater need to understand the issues behind domestic violence and Harbour was looking to carry out some work targeted at males and young men living at home, who have struggled with someone being abusive to their mother or father for a long period of time.
- 11.4 Harbour will continue to work with the Domestic Violence Forum and the Safer Hartlepool Partnership, who are very supportive of Harbour's aims. Members heard that there are a whole range of areas being developed, for example working with the Police to reduce the drop off rate after the first incident. Harbour also highlighted to the Forum that it can offer a male worker to work with male victims when requested.
- 11.5 The Forum was encouraged to hear that Harbour is very keen to look at providing a helpline for male victims, though the hours it would be available would be subject to funding. Harbour are also keen to take another look at publicity material produced to promote the services available to domestic violence victims, to determine how this can be used to encourage greater engagement in programmes by all victims.
- 11.6 The Director of Harbour felt that the partnership involved in the promotion of services and help for victims needed to plan how to promote a consistent, regular message and look strategically at the messages that were put across. Members were advised that partnership working was key at a time of reduced funding and the buy in of the local authority was a significant factor in this, as it enabled the third sector to gain matched funding.
- 11.7 The Director of Harbour also advised the Forum that preventative work with children is key to breaking the cycle of abuse which may pass through generations. Harbour has undertaken work with Middlesbrough Council, where a programme was delivered to children as young as 8 and 9 to encourage self esteem and promote the fact that bullying is wrong and has consequences. Children should be equipped with safe coping strategies rather than turning to drink or drugs as a result of domestic abuse and bullying.

Information from other Local Authorities

- 11.8 At the meeting of the Forum on 3 February 2011 Members considered recommendation and action plan extracts from a report completed by Durham County Council's Scrutiny Sub Committee for Strong, Healthy and Safer Communities in 2007 entitled 'A Hidden Truth....? A Scrutiny Report about Domestic Abuse in County Durham'.
- 11.9 Members of the Forum commented that there had been a lot of work on domestic abuse agenda, as highlighted by the Durham Council report, yet

victims still did not know where to get advice and information, as demonstrated by the case studies received as a result of the investigation.

- 11.10 When discussing the actions contained within the Durham Council report the Forum was advised by the Community Safety Manager that the Safer Hartlepool Partnership website was in the process of being re-launched. The new website would contain links and signposts to agencies and services available to all victims of domestic abuse, but would have specific reference to help available to male victims.
- 11.11 The Forum also noted that mirroring discussion under paragraph 11.7, the Durham Council report also identified the important role of schools and early intervention programmes in reinforcing the message that domestic abuse is unacceptable.

12 CONCLUSIONS

- 12.1 The Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum concluded:-
- (a) That although there are identified male victims of domestic abuse in Hartlepool and the Tees Valley, these figures were likely to be an under representation of the actual numbers, due to a reluctance for male victims to report incidents;
 - (b) That services provided by organisations to aid victims of domestic violence and abuse are not gender specific, although female victims are of a higher profile nationally;
 - (c) That male victims of domestic abuse and their families are not always aware of how to access services;
 - (d) That male victims of domestic abuse need greater encouragement to engage with agencies that provide assistance;
 - (e) That bed and breakfast accommodation offered to male victims of domestic abuse was not suitable for maintaining contact with children;
 - (f) That there was not sufficient demand to financially justify a male refuge in Hartlepool;
 - (g) That local domestic violence posters containing gender neutral images may be considered too subtle to convey the message that services were also available to male victims;
 - (h) That all partners whose work includes responding to or supporting those who experience domestic abuse may benefit from training specific to dealing with male victims.

13 RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 The Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum has taken evidence from a wide range of sources to assist in the formulation of a balanced range of recommendations. The Forum's key recommendations to the Cabinet are as outlined below:-

- (a) That promotion of support and assistance available to male victims of domestic abuse is undertaken to encourage more male victims to engage with services, including:-
 - (i) Utilisation of appropriate promotional and awareness raising activities, highlighting services available to male victims of domestic abuse;
 - (ii) Ensuring that additional to recommendation (a)(i) information is made available to members of the public who are not able to access the internet.
- (b) That the provision of a helpline specifically for male victims of domestic abuse is investigated with the Safer Hartlepool Partnership;
- (c) That following the refresh of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership website a review of the Hartlepool Borough Council website is undertaken to assess whether:-
 - (i) The website contains sufficient information and signposts to enable male victims of domestic abuse to access services and contact appropriate support agencies;
 - (ii) Information can be accessed with limited searching.
- (d) That work is undertaken in conjunction with the Child and Adult Services Department to investigate the potential to deliver non gender specific domestic abuse prevention programmes at a school level.
- (e) That a work is undertaken with other local authorities in the northern region to consider:-
 - (i) Support for a cross authority male domestic abuse worker to develop and promote services available throughout the northern region;
 - (ii) Undertaking a cross authority review to determine the demand for a male refuge.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee is grateful to all those who have presented evidence during the course of our investigation. We would like to place on record our appreciation, in

Hartlepool Borough Council:

Lisa Oldroyd – Anti Social Behaviour Research Officer

Mandy Twidale – Victim Support

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Domestic Violence Services for Male Victims – Scoping Report' presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum of 20 January 2011.
- (ii) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Domestic Violence Services for Male Victims – Setting the Scene – Covering Report' presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 3 February 2011.
- (iii) Presentation by the Community Safety Manager entitled 'Male Victims of Domestic Violence' delivered at the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 3 February 2011.
- (iv) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Violence – Key Stakeholders - Covering Report' presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 3 February 2011.
- (v) Presentation by the Director of Housing Hartlepool entitled 'Domestic Violence Service for Male Victims' delivered at the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 3 February 2011.
- (vi) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Durham County Council Scrutiny Investigation into Domestic Violence' presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 3 February 2011.
- (vii) Extracts of the recommendations and actions from the Durham County Council Scrutiny investigation entitled 'A Hidden Truth....? A Scrutiny Report about Domestic Abuse in County Durham' presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 3 February 2011.
- (viii) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Violence – Information from Regional and National Organisations' presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 3 February 2011.
- (ix) The ManKind Initiative (April 2010) *Male Victims – Domestic and Partner Abuse Statistics*.
- (x) The ManKind Initiative (December 2009) *Partner abuse in England, Wales and Scotland*.
- (xi) Extracts from The Men's Network - 'A City That Works for Everyone – Men and Boys Included' presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 3 February 2011.
- (xii) Minutes of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum of 20 January 2011, 3 February 2011 and 31 March 2011.