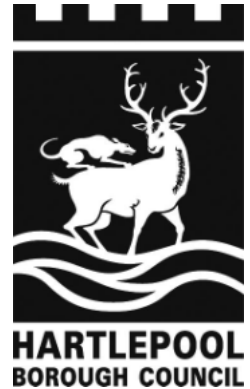


# **SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA**



**Friday 8 April 2011**

**at 10.00 am**

**at Jutland Road Community Centre, Jutland Road, Hartlepool**

**MEMBERS: SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:**

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, Flintoff, Gibbon, Hargreaves, Hill, James, Lawton, A E Lilley, G Lilley, A Marshall, Preece, Turner and P Thompson

Resident Representatives: Mary Green, Peter Joyce, Rosemarie Kennedy, Iris Ryder, Michael Unwin and Angela Wilcox

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 3. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 4. MINUTES**
  - 4.1 To confirm the minutes of the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum meeting held on 18 February 2011
  - 4.2 Matters arising (*including letter of response from the Mayor*)
  - 4.3 To receive the minutes of the South Area Police and Community Safety Consultative Forum held on 16 March 2011 (*to follow*)
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**6. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 Child Poverty Needs Assessment And Strategy – *Child Poverty Working Group*

**7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION and/or INFORMATION**

- 7.1 Families Information Services Hartlepool (FISH) – *Families Information Service Manager*

**8. ITEMS FOR DECISION**

No items

**9. WARD ISSUES FROM WARD MEMBERS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

**10. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be confirmed

**WARDS**

- Fens
- Greatham
- Owton
- Rossmere
- Seaton

# SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

## 18<sup>th</sup> February 2011

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING



The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. at Owton Manor Community Centre, Wynyard Road, Hartlepool

<b>PRESENT:</b>
-----------------

- |        |                                      |                 |
|--------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Chair: | Councillor Ann Marshall              | - Rossmere Ward |
|        | Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher | - Rossmere Ward |
|        | Councillor Steve Gibbon              | - Fens Ward     |
|        | Councillor Marjorie James            | - Owton Ward    |
|        | Councillor Trisha Lawton             | - Rossmere Ward |
|        | Councillor Alison Lilley             | - Fens Ward     |
|        | Councillor Geoff Lilley              | - Greatham Ward |
|        | Councillor Arthur Preece             | - Fens Ward     |
|        | Councillor Paul Thompson             | - Seaton Ward   |
|        | Councillor Mike Turner               | - Seaton Ward   |

Resident Representatives: Maureen Braithwaite, Peter Joyce, Rosemarie Kennedy, Iris Ryder and Michael Unwin

Public: Donna Hotham and Michael Ward

- Officers:
- Dave Frame, Neighbourhood Manager
  - Mike Blair, Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager
  - Neil Jeffery, Local Transport Plan Co-ordinator
  - Dave Mitchell, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
  - Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer
  - Julie Hetherington, Community Safety Assistant
  - Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representatives: Sergeant Tom Hart

Fire and Rescue Service: Dean Charnley

Housing Hartlepool: Lynn McPartlin

|

**37. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pamela Hargreaves and Cath Hill and the Vice-Chair Angie Wilcox

**38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**39. MINUTES OF THE SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2010**

Confirmed

**40. MATTERS ARISING**

**Ward Issues – Gritting** – Councillor Alison Lilley commented that no mention had been made in the minutes of an email which she had sent to officers on this issue despite the email being read out and commented upon during the meeting. The Chair noted this. Councillor Geoff Lilley asked whether there had been any meetings following the concerns raised. Councillor Marjorie James advised that she had emailed the Neighbourhood Manager and the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods expressing her disappointment that no progress had been made on a severe weather strategy in the last 12 months. A meeting had been scheduled for 2 weeks time to look at appropriate ways to operate such a strategy. She would report the results back to a future forum. Councillor G Lilley indicated that he would be happy to attend the meeting, saying one of the easiest ways to help residents during indement weather would be by increasing access to grit. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that questions around this, such as amount and locality of grit, would form part of the discussions around input from the

voluntary sector. Councillor A Lilley asked that those involved keep in the forefront of their minds the number of elderly people living alone and not in sheltered accommodation.

**41. MINUTES OF THE SOUTH AREA POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2011**

Received

**42. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**Chief Executive’s Pay Rise** – Resident Michael Ward referred to the recently reported pay rise given to the Chief Executive. He noted that at no time during the recent budget discussions had this increase been mentioned and questioned how Cabinet could have voted for this increase while making cuts elsewhere. Councillor Marjorie James, in her capacity as Chair of Scrutiny Coordinating Committee indicated that Cabinet’s decision to award the pay increase had been made 2 years previously however it had then been ‘called in’ to Scrutiny Coordinating Committee for investigation prior to implementation where it had remained for some time. Scrutiny Coordinating Committee had not supported the rise however Cabinet had chosen to implement their original decision. Members had been unable to highlight this during the recent budget consultation as the matter had been confidential therefore under the constitution members could not discuss it publically. The majority of members within the Council had not supported the rise but were not asked for their opinion, it was a purely executive decision. Councillor James had met with the Mayor and members of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

earlier that morning to discuss the reasons for the decision. A fuller answer would be provided at the Council meeting the following Thursday, in the meantime she advised any residents wishing to ask questions to contact the Mayor.

Mr Ward asked whether his query as to how Cabinet could have authorised the rise at a time of cuts could be submitted on behalf of the Forum to enable a reply to come back to a future meeting. Councillor Geoff Lilley supported this. Councillor James suggested that the minutes for Council when this matter was discussed be attached to the papers for next Forum meeting for members information. The Chair asked if Councillor James would report to the Forum at that time in her capacity as Scrutiny Coordinating Committee Chair.

Councillor Mike Turner queried whether the decision made by Council was legally binding or could be overturned by Council. Councillor James confirmed that senior officers pay was in the gift of Cabinet and nothing to do with Council legally. Councillor Turner commented that he would not have voted for the increase however the cuts had come from central government and completely overwhelmed council savings even without the increase. Mr Ward accepted that the Council had made great efforts to save money through Business Transformation including the reduction from 5 to 3 departments but felt that it was unnecessary to have a Mayor and a Chief Executive.

**43. HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH  
COUNCIL DRAFT LOCAL  
TRANSPORT PLAN 3**

The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager outlined an overview of the content of the Provisional Hartlepool Local Transport Plan 3 which was now

the subject of consultation prior to its implementation on 1 April 2011. He asked that those present at the meeting make comment on this Strategic document relating to the aims of the Authority in terms of travel by 28 February 2011.

Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher referred to Section 8 ‘Improving equality of opportunity through access to services’. He said planned cuts to bus services would not improve equality of opportunity through access to services and would leave people isolated. Members were being asked to endorse something which they would be unable to deliver. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager agreed with this assessment however as officers they had been obliged to offer cuts to non-statutory bus services and these cuts had been accepted by Cabinet. The Local Transport Plan was designed to support local transport not financially subsidise bus services.

Councillor Paul Thompson asked whether services had yet been officially cancelled yet. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager confirmed that all the affected services had been deregistered by the companies. Councillor Thompson asked if he could be provided with a list of affected services.

Councillor Mike Turner asked if consideration had been given to light railway as a replacement. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager confirmed that facilities within individual stations and the interchange had been improved and railway patronage was on the increase. Councillor Geoff Lilley noted that availability of a platform and parking at Greatham which providers were reluctant to use. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager

referred to the ongoing Tees Valley Metro project and said using the existing facilities at Greatham was not off the agenda.

Resident Donna Hotham queried which services would be affected. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager advised that the effects would be evident mainly on evenings and weekends with very few buses running after 6.30pm.

Councillor Geoff Lilley asked that officers ensure the 36 did not bypass Greatham as it had done previously. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager indicated he would need specific examples of when this had occurred so that Stagecoach could discipline those responsible.

The Chair thanked the Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager for attending the meeting.

#### **44. MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS**

The following schemes were considered by the Forum:

- Fens – Stamford Walk – footpath construction – cost £2,000
- Fens – Burwell Walk – lighting scheme - £5,750
- Rossmere – Brierton Lane – lighting scheme – Contribution of £6,000 towards this scheme
- Seaton – The Green – lighting scheme – cost £4,000
- Seaton – Green Terrace – lighting scheme – cost £5,000

The Chair requested that the 2 Seaton proposals be consulted upon separately as some issues had been raised by residents regarding these schemes.

#### **Decision**

That Minor Works Funding as detailed within the report be recommended for approval to the Portfolio Holder

#### **45. WARD ISSUES FROM WARD MEMBERS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Resident Michael Ward raised issues with flooding on the path from Stamford Walk to the surgery. The Neighbourhood Coordinator thought that was an issue for the shop landlord but would investigate further.

**Station Road** – Resident Dorothy Clark had asked that her thanks be passed on to the Fire Service representatives for their prompt action following a recent fire on Station Road

**Seaton Carew smell** – Resident Representative highlighted a bad smell which had come from the South of Seaton Carew recently. Her comments were supported by Councillors Paul Thompson and Mike Turner. She did not believe it was landfill as it was more aromatic. It was also only apparent at night. The Neighbourhood Manager to forward these comments to the Principal Environmental Health Officer.

**Dog fouling** – Resident Representative Michael Unwin asked if anything could be done to stop dog owners allowing their pets to foul on the sports field as it was causing a health hazard. This would be forwarded to the enforcement section.

**Rossmere Way** – Resident Representative Rosemarie Kennedy queried when the bollards would be replaced next to Adrossan Court. The Neighbourhood Manager hoped it would take no longer than 2 weeks.

**O'Briens** – Resident Representative Iris Ryder advised that O'Briens were not washing their vehicles wheels upon leaving the premises. This was leading to mud on the road which was causing dangerous conditions on Newburn Bridge. Councillor Paul Thompson had been advised that a waterline needed to be fitted to the existing wheel wash and this would be completed within the next week. Councillor Mike Turner noted that a sweeper had been clearing the mud and debris but it did not seem particularly efficient and was certainly an impediment to drivers. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager, while noting that the sweeper in question was not run by the Council, felt that without its use the situation would be just as hazardous. However he agreed that it should have flashing lights to warn other drivers if this was not the case.

**Cycle path** – Resident Donna Hotham reported an increase in dog fouling.

**Lawson Road grass verges** – Resident Representative Iris Ryder referred to recent repair to grass verges and asked if all edges could be straightened off rather than just those that encroached onto the pavement. The Neighbourhood Manager would look into this.

**Sainsburys** – Resident Representative Rosemarie Kennedy asked who would be responsible if Station Road was damaged during the buildings of the recently approved Sainsburys Store. Officers advised that Sainsburys would be responsible for reinstatement. The surrounding area would be checked

before the work commenced. Councillor Marjorie James commented that the rules required companies to 'make good' any damage however this was sometimes not good enough. She suggested that the rules be amended to ensure that they left roads and pavements as they had found them.

**Seaton Carew Allotments** – Councillor Paul Thompson queried when the roads dug up near the allotments would be put back down. The Neighbourhood Manager to action this.

**Next meeting** – Councillor Marjorie James suggested that the next meeting take place at Jutland Road Community Centre. The Chair highlighted previous problems with the acoustics but Councillor James felt that community centres should be used as much as possible in light of budget cuts.

The meeting concluded at 2.50 pm

CHAIR

**Stuart Drummond**  
**Mayor**  
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Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY

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7 March 2011

Councillor Ann Marshall  
Chair of the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

Dear Ann

Further to your letter regarding the rise in the Chief Executive's salary, please find attached a copy of my column that appeared in the Hartlepool Mail which explains why the decision was made.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart Drummond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

STUART DRUMMOND  
MAYOR

Enc



They say a week is a long time in politics. Well this last week has certainly been the longest and one of the most unpleasant of my life. I've experienced just about every negative human emotion going and I've barely had more than a few weeks sleep. I have been absolutely devastated by the way in which the story about the Chief Executive of Hartlepool Borough Council getting a pay rise in the wake of the huge cuts being imposed on Hartlepool has been portrayed and I'm gutted that the reputation of Hartlepool and the Council has been severely damaged both locally and nationally.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not seeking any sympathy and I certainly don't expect any. I'm fully aware that the buck stops with me. My Cabinet and I made a decision and it is up to me to explain the reasoning behind that decision and, more importantly, what I intend to do about it now.

The actual decision to remunerate the post of Chief Executive on a scale of between £158,000 and £168,000 was taken in October 2009, nearly a year and a half ago. The world was a very different place back then. We weren't even close to getting a Government that is imposing enormous funding cuts on Local Authorities. We had barely even started looking at setting last year's budget for the Council, never mind this year's. The decision followed a very long and detailed process which actually began in April 2008 and it was a decision that saw the Chief Executive's salary increase by only £1,000 per annum at the time it was made.

I completely appreciate that, regardless of when the decision was made or whatever the state of the Council's finances at the time, it is still a huge salary and that fact was never lost on the Cabinet. The reality is that it is the going rate. The Cabinet took the latest information from across all twelve local authorities in the North East and set the level at exactly the middle point or the average rate across the region. It could be argued that we are the smallest so we should pay the least. Well, the Cabinet felt that the level of responsibility of the post had increased since the last review due to extra responsibilities being imposed on Councils by the Government over that period and, at the time, we felt that an increase of £1,000 to the salary, rising over time, was a fair outcome.

Fairness is an issue that was at the forefront of the whole process. As I've said, the review of the responsibilities and salary of the Chief Executive began in early 2008. In actual fact, this was two years later than it should have happened as the terms of the job state it should be reviewed every three years and it hadn't happened since 2003. To help with this review, we asked for some independent advice to give us an idea of what factors we should be considering and to recommend a salary level based on these factors. The report came back to Cabinet recommending that we set a salary level of £190,000, a rise of nearly £40,000.

The Cabinet flatly rejected this recommendation as felt the evidence in the report did not back up the recommendation and this increase could not be justified. We also agreed to review the position again twelve months later in order to bring the frequency of the reviews back into kilter with the terms and conditions of the job. The Chief Executive requested an opportunity to appeal this decision and this is where the Cabinet had a duty to be absolutely fair and equal to an employee of the Council.



At that time, every single employee of the Council was under going a job evaluation review as part of a process that was forced upon us due to litigation and a Government edict. That is a different story but, incidentally, more than 60% of Council staff got an increase to their salary at a cost of more than £6 million annually the Council. As part of this process, every employee was entitled to an independent appeal on the outcome of their review. The Cabinet were absolutely clear that there should be parity with every other employee when it came to dealing with an appeal from the Chief Executive and as there is no national guidance or framework to when it comes to dealing with such an issue, we sought to bring in some independent arbiters to enter into a conciliation process.

To cut a long and detailed story short, we came to a conclusion that, at the time, a year and a half ago, seemed to be the fairest outcome all round. I can guarantee each and every one of you that if the same issue arose today, the outcome would be very different. Not one Cabinet member, myself included, would even consider any pay rise for anyone in the current financial climate.

Having spent most of the last six months of my life agonising over setting a budget that inevitably lead to a loss of jobs, a loss of services and a tidal wave of unhappiness amongst the public, I despaired when I saw this pay increase being reported in the context of the current budget cuts. It is often said that politicians and decision makers are out of touch with reality and the way this story came out paints me in exactly the same light but that could not be further from the truth. I know only too well how decisions I make affect others. I know exactly how difficult it is going to be for many people because of all these cuts. My wife is being made redundant from the Council next month so I know exactly what effect these cuts are having and I cannot stress enough that I totally understand people's anger at the way this story looks.

I don't expect everyone to believe me and I certainly don't expect everyone to agree with the decision however, I hope I have given a clear explanation as to why and how the decision was made at the time. The outcome would be very different today with the benefit of hindsight.

For some time now, the Cabinet has been looking at many different ways in which to save money and a number of options will be considered over the coming year. I've already mentioned that we are talking to our neighbouring local authorities to explore the possibility of sharing services in the future. This will obviously include sharing staff and senior management but I certainly would not rule out sharing a Chief Executive with another Council in the near future.

This, along with a number of other ideas for savings, is already being looked at and will naturally progress as the year passes by, however, I am extremely conscious of the damage that has been done recently and the need to take some rapid action to try and repair a bit of that damage. With that in mind, I have asked the Chief Executive to take one month's unpaid leave over the course of the upcoming financial year and I am pleased to report that he has agreed to do so. This will generate a saving to the Council of £12,888. I believe this is a fair and necessary step given the current circumstances and I hope it will go some way to rebuilding some public confidence in the Cabinet and repair some of our reputation with the Government.

Eric Pickles, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, recently announced that all jobs within Local Authorities with a salary of over £100,000 should be agreed by the full Council in the interests of transparency and accountability. I welcome this move and I propose to go even further here by sending every senior management post to full Council to agree the salary level prior to the recruitment process. That would mean any job with a salary of £58,000 or above would need full Council approval.

These two actions would have probably happened at a later date anyway but, as I said at the beginning, the buck stops with me and it is up to me to try and make right what is clearly wrong in the eyes of everyone who read the Mail last week. In monetary terms, the Council will now be saving more than it would had the Cabinet not agreed a pay rise a year and a half ago and the intention is that Hartlepool is at the forefront when it comes to transparency around senior officers' pay in the future and hopefully, a week similar to the one that has just passed, will never happen again.

**WARDS**

Fens  
Greatham  
Owton  
Rossmere  
Seaton

***SOUTH POLICE &  
COMMUNITY SAFETY  
CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

**18 March 2011**

***MINUTES OF THE MEETING***



The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm at Owton Manor Community Centre,  
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool

**PRESENT:**

Chair:	Councillor Ann Marshall	-	Rossmere Ward
	Councillor Steve Gibbon	-	Fens Ward
	Councillor Trisha Lawton	-	Rossmere Ward
	Councillor Michael Turner	-	Seaton Ward

Resident Representatives: Maureen Braithwaite, Rosemarie Kennedy, Peter Joyce and Michael Unwin

Residents: Donna Hotham, Sybil Hotham, Mr Oxley and Mike Ward

Council Officers: David Frame, Neighbourhood Manager (South)  
Dave Mitchell, Neighbourhood Coordinator  
Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer  
Nick Stone, Senior Antisocial Behaviour Officer  
Sue Grey, Antisocial Behaviour Officer  
Julie Hetherington, Community Safety Assistant  
Sarah Harrison, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representative: Acting Sgt Tom Hart

Fire Brigade Representatives: Peter Bradley and Dean Chamley

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Andy Elvidge

**18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Councillors Christopher Akers Belcher, Bob Flintoff, Marjorie James, Alison Lilley and Geoff Lilley. Also from Resident Representatives Iris Ryder and Angie Wilcox.

**19. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2011**

The minutes were confirmed.

## 20. MATTERS ARISING

**Seaton Carew Bonfire** – Councillor Turner asked that consideration be given to adequate public transport to this event as several bus services in the town were being axed. He was informed that there was still doubt as to whether the event would take place this November.

## 21. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Acting Sgt Hart presented Forcwide crime figures for February 2011. Most crime was up following low levels of crime in December. However, Acting Sgt Hart said that actual numbers of crimes were only up by 63 across the whole of Teesside. Crime in Hartlepool however for February 2011 was down with only 450 crimes being recorded that month. The only area for concern was that of house burglaries. To combat this the CID was working half nights and Neighbourhood Officers were working overtime as well as Special Constables doing patrols. In the past two weeks there had been only 1 house burglary in the town. Performance for District and the South area was then outlined.

The Forum was advised of high visibility patrols in Greatham which had resulted in a reduction in antisocial behaviour there. It was noted that the Solid Rock café would reviewing opening hours and staffing levels following problems with youths. Acting Sgt Hart had been tasked with producing a media strategy for the District and was liaising with Radio Hartlepool where a ward surgery would take place on air once a week. Other items of interest was Operation Juno to combat antisocial behaviour over the Easter Holiday period at Seaton Dunes and Greatham beck. Officers would be visible in the area and would remove alcohol from young people. He updated

the meeting with staffing changes in the south area.

**Crime Rate** – Councillor Steve Gibbon asked whether the rise in crime had been as a result of taking PCSOs from the Neighbourhood Policing Teams but was informed that a prolific shoplifter had been released from prison although he had since been remanded.

**PCSOs** – Resident Representative Rosemarie Kennedy asked whether the PCSOs who were joining the south team were in addition to those already there and was informed that they were as the Task Force had been disbanded and those PCSOs had been put back on the Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

**Staffing Changes** – The Chair asked that Ward Councillors be made aware of the staffing changes and the Community Safety Assistant agreed to circulate details once available.

**Greatham Beck** – Resident Representative Michael Unwin asked what action residents should take if they were aware of youths drinking at this location and was informed that if there were any concerns they should ring the Police on 01642 326326 and an appropriate police response would be made including the deployment of the Police Helicopter if necessary. The Neighbourhood Team be made aware of any incidents in that area and increase police vigilance in that locality as well as the area closer to south fens where similar incidents occurred.

## 22. UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

Peter Bradley from Cleveland Fire Brigade updated the meeting on the numbers of fires in the South area between 1 January and 6 March 2011 and gave comparative figures from last



year. He clarified that F1 fires involved items of monetary value and F3 fires were rubbish fires.

The table below gives details.

South	1st Jan to 6th March		Fens School Football – Resident Mike Ward asked whether these sessions would be resumed once the nights were lighter and was informed that they would be.
	2010	2011	
Deliberate F1 Vehicle Fires	0	2	
Deliberate F1 Dwelling Fires	1	0	
Deliberate F1 other	1	1	0.0
Deliberate F3 Fires	5	7	<b>23. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT</b> 40.0 <b>UPDATE</b>
All Deliberate Fires	7	10	42.9
Home Fire Safety Visits	147	167	136

He stated that at the beginning of the year Seaton Sand Dunes had been highlighted as being a hotspot area but in partnership with the local PCSO and the Authority's Countryside Warden school assemblies had been visited to outline the impact of young people's behaviour there. He said that to divert young people there would be a Multi Use Games Area deployed in the easter holidays with a portable games pitch. It was clarified for the meeting that British Energy were involved with work there in the dunes area.

**Rossmere Skate Park** – Resident Representative Rosemarie Kennedy asked when this would be opened and was informed that it should be operational in April and was assured that there would be police patrols in the area.

**Schools Visits** – Rosemarie Kennedy asked whether work was done at schools with young people to highlight the harmful effects of alcohol. The Senior Antisocial Behaviour Officer said that work was done with individuals who were stopped with alcohol and were passed on to the 'Straight Line' project who spoke to young people and their parents. The Fire

Brigade also had a presentation on the dangers of alcohol but this was only suitable for Over 16s however another suitable package for schools could be developed.

The Senior Antisocial Behaviour Officer informed the meeting of current trends in relation to cases which were dealt with by the unit and Housing Hartlepool.

### 23. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT UPDATE

There had been a decrease in the number of cases over the past three months, but this may be attributable to the bad weather in December and January. There was soon to be an antisocial behaviour officer based in the local community office. He added that an additional way of reporting antisocial behaviour had been introduced via the Council's website using the 'report it' button. This would enable out of hours reporting.

He stated that there had been 2 drink banning orders successfully imposed in the town. He added that all current antisocial behaviour and drink banning orders were detailed on the Cleveland Police website and could be accessed by following the 'antisocial behaviour' link on that site.

There had been an antisocial behaviour awareness day on 8 February 2011 in the Borough Hall attended by Year 8 pupils. This had been a partnership event with Fire, Police, Antisocial Behaviour Unit and the Straightline Project involvement.

The Senior Antisocial Behaviour Officer outlined that there was a current Government consultation in relation to the introduction of Criminal Behaviour Orders and Crime Prevention Injunctions instead of ASBOs and Criminal ASBOs although it would be at least a year before changes were introduced.

#### **24. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No items

#### **25. ANY ISSUES TO BE RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

No items.

#### **26. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

The Chair ruled that the following items of business should be considered by the Committee as a matter of urgency in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(B) (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 in order that the matter could be dealt with without delay.

**Joint Action Group** - The Neighbourhood Manager informed the meeting that the South Area Joint Action Group (JAG) met monthly. These are meetings held by HBC with key partners including Police, Housing Hartlepool, Fire Brigade and the PCT amongst others. Problem issues in this area could be highlighted at the meeting and resolved.

The meeting concluded at 2.41 pm

Chair

**Report of:** Child Poverty Working Group

**Subject:** CHILD POVERTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to inform the consultative forum of a consultation process for a refreshed child poverty strategy.

**2. BACKGROUND**

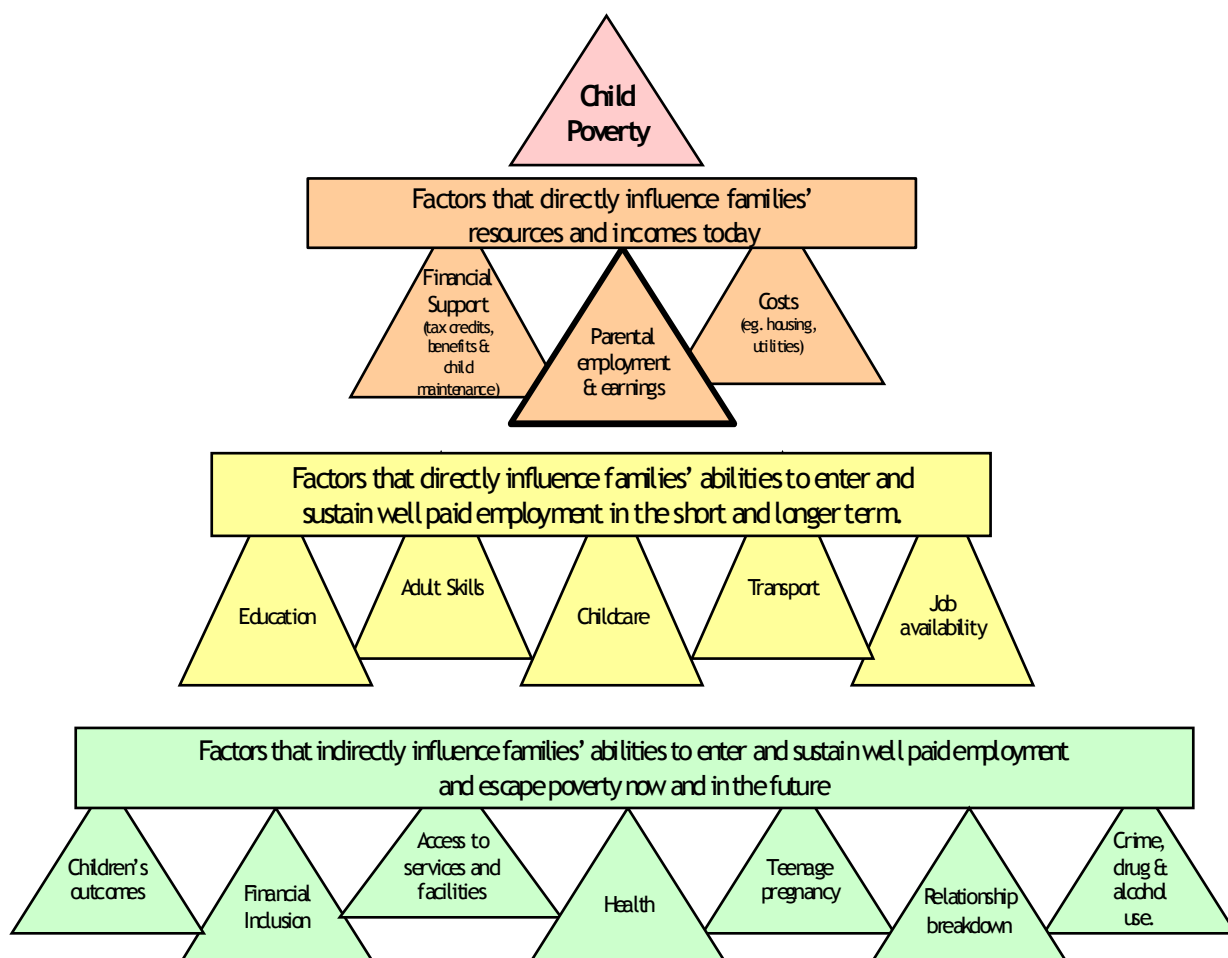
2.1 The Local Authority with its partners has a duty to produce a Child Poverty Needs Assessment and Child Poverty Strategy through the Child Poverty Act 2010. A previous Child Poverty Strategy was approved by Hartlepool Borough Council Cabinet in April 2010. Since this time an independent report by Frank Field has been published therefore a refresh of the current strategy is needed using the information collated in the needs assessment and the evidence presented in the Frank Field Review.

2.2 The child poverty working group have drafted a Child Poverty needs assessment and a refreshed strategy. This strategy is being consulted widely to ensure all partners have an opportunity to inform the strategy.

**3. CHILD POVERTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

3.1 A draft needs assessment has been produced which sets out data linked to child poverty as set out below:





3.2 The data has been set out in wards and have been RAG (Red/ Amber/ Green) rated with 1 being the highest level of concern and 17 being the lowest. This is generally translated into RAG rating as follows:  
 1-5 highest results - of most cause for concern  
 6-10 highest results - of medium cause for concern  
 11-17 - lowest cause for concern.

3.3 This needs assessment gives an overview of the needs in Hartlepool and needs to be used to inform the strategy and the actions linked to the strategy.

#### 4. CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY

4.1 The draft Child Poverty Strategy has been developed using research from national pilots, local activities and the review published by Frank Field. It sets out two approaches that need consideration:

1. Targeted approach – supporting families currently in poverty
2. Preventative approach – preventing poor children becoming poor adults

4.2 The strategy attempts to address both these approaches but obviously in a difficult economic climate the level of interventions needs debating.

## 5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 A consultation is taking place in March and April 2011 to allow the public and partners to shape the strategy. The consultation period ends on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2011. Responses will be collated and added to the strategy as appropriate and a final strategy will be presented to Cabinet and the Hartlepool partnership for approval in May/June 2011.
- 5.2 The draft needs assessment and draft strategy is on the council website and can be accessed at  
[http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/7129/draft\\_child\\_poverty\\_strategy\\_and\\_needs\\_assessment](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/7129/draft_child_poverty_strategy_and_needs_assessment)
- 5.3 Responses to the strategy should be sent to:

Danielle Swainston, Sure Start, Extended Services and Early Years Manager, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool TS24 8AY  
[danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk)  
01429 523671

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 For members of the consultative forum and the public to respond to the consultation.
- 6.2 Responses to the strategy should be sent by 21<sup>st</sup> April 2011 to:

Danielle Swainston, Sure Start, Extended Services and Early Years Manager, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool TS24 8AY  
[danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk)  
01429 523671

## 7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Child Poverty Needs Assessment and Child Poverty Strategy are available on the Hartlepool Council's website  
[http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/7129/draft\\_child\\_poverty\\_strategy\\_and\\_needs\\_assessment](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/7129/draft_child_poverty_strategy_and_needs_assessment)

## 8. CONTACT OFFICER

Danielle Swainston, Sure Start, Extended Services and Early Years Manager, 01429 523671  
[danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk)

**Report of:** Families Information Service Manager

**Subject:** Families Information Service Hartlepool (FISH)

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## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To introduce FISH and the services available.

## 2. BACKGROUND

FISH have been providing a service to families across Hartlepool for more than 10 years. Initially called “Jigsaw” offering 15 hours a week helpline service, then “Children’s Information Service”, moving 5 years ago to the Central Library and name changed in 2008 to FISH when provision of the service became a statutory requirement for all LAs and our remit was confirmed to be families with children aged 0-19.

We hold the only database of Ofsted Registered Childcare which allows parents access to help with the cost of childcare through the tax credit system (dependant on criteria). Our database also contains details of all services for children and families that we are aware of so that we can upload the information to our website <http://hartlepool.fsd.org.uk> and provide tailored advice to clients about the range of services and activities that are available. We provide information, advice and guidance on all family issues, including childcare, help with the costs of bringing up children, separation and divorce, ante-natal care, health and well-being and returning to education or work.

Our partners include jobcentreplus, Children’s Centres, Connexions, Barnardo’s, Ofsted, School’s Parent Support Advisers, Adult Education and Health Visitors.

## 3. PROPOSALS

We are continuing our helpline service and will be available at various venues throughout the locality for face-to-face advice including booked appointments. We are available to speak to any groups of parents/carers, young people, professionals and attend any function where our services will be useful.

**4. OTHER SECTIONS WHICH MAY BE INCLUDED IN A REPORT**

**- RISK IMPLICATIONS**

Some clients may find the change confusing and would prefer our previous base, however we can arrange to meet with clients in the Library setting if required.

**- FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS** - none

**- LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS** – still maintaining our statutory duty

**- STAFF CONSIDERATIONS** - none

**- ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS** - none

**- SECTION 17** – availability of information on Positive Activities can help reduce crime

**- OTHER** - none

**5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Encourage families and young people to access our services directly or through our website. Where possible display our posters, make available our leaflets and stickers. Include FISH in any plans for community events.

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS** - none

**7. CONTACT OFFICER**

Sarah Tudor 01429 284284

Fax 01429 292445

E-mail – [sarah.tudor@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.tudor@hartlepool.gov.uk)

Website – <http://hartlepool.org.uk>