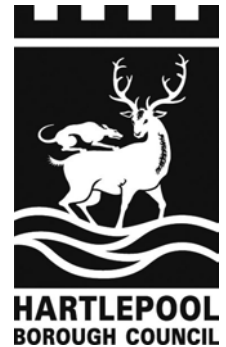


# **REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA**



**Thursday 21 July 2011**

**at 3.00 p.m.**

**in the Council Chamber,  
Civic centre, Hartlepool.**

**MEMBERS: REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:**

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, Barclay, Cook, Cranney, Gibbon, James, McKenna, Rogan and Turner.

Resident Representatives: Ted Jackson, John Maxwell and 1 vacancy.

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 31 MARCH 2011**
- 4. RESPONSES FROM THE COUNCIL, THE EXECUTIVE OR COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL TO FINAL REPORTS OF THIS FORUM**
  - 4.1 Portfolio Holder's Response to the:-
    - (a) Investigation into the Working Neighbourhood Fund – *Joint Report of the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods and the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development*
    - (b) Investigation into Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Violence - *Joint Report of the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods and the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety*
- 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 Role of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum – *Scrutiny  
Support Officer*

7.2 Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum - Work Programme for  
2011/12 - *Scrutiny Support Officer*

8. **ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN**

No items.

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

**FOR INFORMATION**

i) Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 1 September 2011 commencing at 3.00 p.m.

# **REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM MINUTES**

**31 March 2011**

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

**Present:**

Councillor: Kevin Cranney (In the Chair)

Councillors: Allan Barclay, Steve Gibbon, Marjorie James,  
Trevor Rogan and Ray Wells

Resident Representatives:

Ted Jackson, John Maxwell and Angie Wilcox

Officers:

Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods  
Denise Ogden, Assistant Director, Regeneration and  
Neighbourhoods  
Damien Wilson, Assistant Director, Regeneration and  
Neighbourhoods  
Antony Steinberg, Economic Development Manager  
Patrick Wilson, Employment Development Officer  
Scott Campbell, Performance and Training Monitoring Officer  
James Walsh, Scrutiny Support Officer  
Elaine Hind, Scrutiny Support Officer  
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

## **72. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Cook.

## **73. Declarations of interest by Members**

None.

## **74. Minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2011**

Confirmed.

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

None.

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

None.

**77. Consideration of progress reports/budget and policy framework documents**

None.

**78. Draft Economic Assessment** *(Economic Development Manager)*

The Economic Development Manager presented the report which provided background information on the requirement to produce an economic assessment.

Hartlepool's Economic Assessment had 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.

In relation to the key findings, whilst most of the assessment contained factual statistical information the development of the key findings and SWOT analysis represented the main thrust of the Assessment that would inform the development of the Economic and Regeneration Strategy, details of which were summarised in the report.

Members' views were sought on the Draft Economic Assessment prior to submission to Cabinet on 8 April for final endorsement.

Members raised a number of queries regarding environmental and recycling issues to which the Assistant Directors provided clarification. Whilst the Forum indicated that waste recycling presented an opportunity for the town, the need for disposal sites to be carefully managed was emphasised. The Forum went on to discuss the role of the Environment Agency and the importance of the Planning Committee working in partnership with the Environment Agency to address disposal issues. Members were advised that the new planning process would address some of the concerns relating to waste disposal issues.

In relation to future skills requirements, a Resident Representative commented on the impact of the budget cuts on the working neighbourhoods fund and highlighted the need to review current training provision and explore the feasibility of providing level two qualifications. The Economic Development Manager advised that whilst the problems in this area were noted, it was unlikely this would be available through work programmes. However, alternative methods of delivering such needs would be explored. The Forum went on to discuss the impact of funding cuts on future skills requirements which was a key element of the economic regeneration strategy.

A Member commented on the need to lobby local MPs to promote the benefits of volunteering opportunities as a means of tackling unemployment and providing work experience to the long term unemployed. The feasibility of introducing payment incentives to encourage individuals to undertake volunteer work was suggested. In response, it was reported that previously the future jobs fund provided 6 month work related programmes. However, this programme had recently been replaced by work placements to which funding to support these placements had not been confirmed.

The following amendments/inclusions for consideration by Cabinet were suggested:-

- Waste recycling presented an opportunity for the town and this should be positively promoted.
- Reference to the HVDA as the most likely consortia for the Third Sector was not inclusive of other organisations and should be amended;
- Emphasis should be placed on retaining existing businesses within the town, alongside supporting start ups and bringing new businesses to the area; and
- The vision for a centre of excellence for disabled businesses should be retained.

The Forum commented that the document was an excellent piece of work and acknowledged that it was a starting point from which the strategy and vision for the town would emerge.

### **Recommended**

That the Forum's suggested amendments/inclusions, as outlined above, be reported to the Portfolio Holder prior to submission to Cabinet on 8 April 2011 for final endorsement.

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

The report provided Members with details of a six monthly progress report on

the delivery of the agreed scrutiny recommendations against investigations undertaken by the Forum. The report included details of overall progress made by all scrutiny forums since 2005 and Appendix A provided a detailed explanation of progress made against each scrutiny recommendation agreed by this Forum since the last update on 9 September 2010.

It was noted that since the 2005/06 municipal year, 91% of the Forum's recommendations had been achieved.

#### **Recommended**

That progress against the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's agreed recommendations since the 2005/06 municipal year, be noted.

### **80. Scrutiny Investigation into Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Abuse – Additional Information** (Scrutiny Support Officer)

As part of the Forum's ongoing investigation into services available to male victims of domestic abuse, the Scrutiny Support Officer referred Members to the meeting of 3 February 2011 when a domestic violence campaign poster was discussed, a copy of which was attached at Appendix A. Members were advised that colour copies were available on request.

#### **Recommended**

That the information given, be noted.

### **81. Draft Final Report – Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Abuse** (Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum)

The Chair referred Members to the draft final report following the Forum's investigation into services available to male victims of domestic abuse.

The report included terms of reference, methods of investigation, key findings, sources of evidence, details of how services were currently provided to male victims of domestic abuse in Hartlepool, effectiveness of the delivery of services provided to male victims of domestic abuse in Hartlepool, impact of current and future budget pressures on the way in which male domestic abuse services were provided and how domestic abuse services could be provided in future.

The Forum had 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 Cabinet were 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 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.

### **Recommended**

That the draft final report, be agreed.

## **82. Issues Identified from Forward Plan**

None.

The meeting concluded at 4.15 pm.

CHAIR



## **REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM**

**21 July 2011**



**Report of:** Joint Report of Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods and the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development.

**Subject:** PORTFOLIO HOLDERS RESPONSE TO THE WORKING NEIGHBOURHOODS FUND

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### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum with feedback on the recommendations from the investigation into the 'Working Neighbourhoods Fund', which was reported to Cabinet on 21 March 2011.

### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The investigation into the Working Neighbourhoods Fund conducted by this Forum falls under the remit of the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department and is, under the Executive Delegation Scheme, within the service area covered by the Regeneration and Economic Development Portfolio Holder, with a small number of the actions arising from the report recommendations sitting within the remit of the Finance and Procurement Portfolio Holder.
- 2.2 On 21 March 2011, Cabinet considered the Final Report of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum into the Working Neighbourhoods Fund. This report provides feedback from the Portfolio Holder following the Cabinet's consideration of, and decisions in relation to this Forum's recommendations.
- 2.3 Following on from this report, progress towards completion of the actions contained within the Action Plan will be monitored through Covalent; the Council's Performance Management System; with standardised six monthly monitoring reports to be presented to the Forum.

### **3. SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS AND EXECUTIVE DECISION**

- 3.1 Following consideration of the Final Report, Cabinet approved the recommendations in their entirety. Details of each recommendation and proposed actions to be taken following approval by Cabinet are provided in the Action Plan attached at **Appendix A**.

### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 That Members note the proposed actions detailed within the Action Plan, appended to this report (**Appendix A**) and seek clarification on its content where felt appropriate.

**Contact Officer:-** Damien Wilson – Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning Services)  
Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department  
Hartlepool Borough Council  
Telephone Number: 01429 523400  
E-mail – [damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk)

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

- (i) The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee's/Scrutiny Forum's Final Report 'Working Neighbourhood Fund' considered by Cabinet on 21 March 2011.
- (ii) Decision Record of Cabinet held on 21 March 2011.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN****4.1 (a) Appendix A****NAME OF FORUM: Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum****NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Working Neighbourhoods Fund****DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: 21 March 2011**

	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION</b>	<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>DELIVERY TIMESCALE</b>
(a)	That where organisations can independently apply for funding that Hartlepool Borough Council should provide assistance with this process.	Where applicable and where resources allow, Hartlepool Borough Council's Economic Development Team already provides assistance to organisations to submit funding applications. In addition, ED tends to lead on writing consortium applications on behalf of key agencies across Hartlepool and will continue to do so. Economic Development will support voluntary community sector to develop capacity to undertake bid writing for funding opportunities.	HBC Officers time	Patrick Wilson	31 May 2011
(b)	That promotion of support and assistance available for local businesses is undertaken including:-  (i) Increasing the awareness	This support is ongoing working in partnership with the business rates section. Businesses that contact the Council stating that they are having difficulties with rates payments due to the	HBC Officers time 25% local contribution to hardship relief. Current allocation of £70k per	John Morton Antony Steinberg	31 March 2012

**NAME OF FORUM:** Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

**NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY:** Working Neighbourhoods Fund

**DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT:** 21 March 2011

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION</b>	<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>DELIVERY TIMESCALE</b>
	<p>of hardship assistance available to businesses from Hartlepool Borough Council, for example through the prominent inclusion of information on business rate demands.</p>	<p>general economic downturn are referred to the business rates section. The rates team will seek to maximise entitlements to small business rates relief and consider rescheduling rate instalments over longer periods. The small business rate relief scheme is actively promoted by inclusion of information leaflets within rate demands. Businesses are visited by ED officers and if deemed to be in severe hardship then an application may be considered for Hardship Relief as a last resort.</p> <p>The hardship rate relief system is funded at a rate of 25% by the Council. Currently a temporary pressure of £70k has been allocated in each of the three</p>	<p>annum for three years commencing 2010/11.</p>	

**NAME OF FORUM:** Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

**NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY:** Working Neighbourhoods Fund

**DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT:** 21 March 2011

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
	<p>years 2010/11 to 2012/13 and the budget for 2010/11 has already been fully committed.</p> <p>The Council can promote the availability of hardship relief with rate demands however the ability to provide financial support will be constrained by the available funding. The expansion of support beyond the current budget would require the identification of compensatory savings and a report to Council as a departure from the approved budget for 2011/12.</p>			
(i) Ensuring Hartlepool Borough Council staff who deal with local businesses can signpost people to appropriate sources of	Council officers in particular Business Rates and Contact Centre staff are aware of the business support services offered by ED and regularly		John Morton Antony Steinberg	30 April 2011

#### 4.1 (a) Appendix A

**DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: 21 March 2011**

RECOMMENDATION		EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
	information and advice at the first point of contact	signpost businesses for information, advice and guidance.			
(c)	That to encourage and support local businesses in Hartlepool:-  (i) The use of local providers to supply goods and services to Hartlepool Borough Council, where economically sensible, is explored; and  (ii) The e-quotations system is prominently highlighted to all relevant local businesses.	The Council's procurement procedures have in place the consideration for all tenders to consider local businesses if applicable. The Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Procurement Guidance will reflect encouragement of the local economy, including the voluntary and community sector wherever possible.  A guide for supplying goods and services to the Council are promoted to local businesses through a specific webpage on the investinhartlepool.com website.	HBC Officers time	Mick Emerson  David Hart  David Hart	31 March 2012  31 May 2011  30 June 2011

**NAME OF FORUM:** Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

**NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY:** Working Neighbourhoods Fund

**DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT:** 21 March 2011

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
		Businesses are signposted by ED officers to this procurement guide and the ability for them to tender online.  E-quotation system will be publicly launched so as to reach local businesses and the voluntary and community sector.		
(d)	That the development of a 10 year jobs and the economy strategy for Hartlepool be explored and that at the outset of this, a working group of voluntary and private sector organisations is established.	Following on from the recently produced Economic Assessment, a new Economic Regeneration Strategy will be produced in 2011. This document will provide a ten year vision and objectives to support the growth of Hartlepool’s economy. Public, private and third sector groups will be invited to workshops to be consulted on what should be included within the Strategy.	HBC Officers time  Antony Steinberg	30 November 2011

**NAME OF FORUM:** Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

**NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY:** Working Neighbourhoods Fund

**DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT:** 21 March 2011

RECOMMENDATION		EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
(e)	That work is undertaken to establish a jobs and the economy themed social enterprise building on the work of Hartlepool Works, encompassing a partnership between the local authority, private enterprises and the voluntary sector, to bid for and commission services to support people into employment.	Reviews are ongoing within the Hartlepool Works (HW) Steering Group to identify the benefits, including financial, of establishing a social enterprise. This proposed action will be developed in consultation with representatives from the HW Steering Group and wider HW consortium members which consists of over 40 organisations. Each of these groups would potentially have an interest in being involved in this proposed social enterprise and would need to be consulted with.	HBC Officers time	Diane Martin	31 March 2012



## **REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM**

**21 July 2011**



**Report of:** Joint Report of Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods and the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Housing.

**Subject:** PORTFOLIO HOLDERS RESPONSE TO SERVICES AVAILABLE TO MALE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

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### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum with feedback on the recommendations from the investigation into the 'Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Abuse', which was reported to Cabinet on 23 May 2011.

### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The investigation into 'Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Abuse' conducted by this Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum falls under the remit of the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department and is, under the Executive Delegation Scheme, within the service area covered by the Community Safety and Housing Portfolio Holder.
- 2.2 On 23 May 2011, Cabinet considered the Final Report of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum into 'Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Abuse'. This report provides feedback from the Portfolio Holder following the Cabinet's consideration of, and decisions in relation to this Forum's recommendations.
- 2.3 Following on from this report, progress towards completion of the actions contained within the Action Plan will be monitored through Covalent; the Council's Performance Management System; with standardised six monthly monitoring reports to be presented to the Forum.

### **3. SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS AND EXECUTIVE DECISION**

- 3.1 Following consideration of the Final Report, Cabinet approved the recommendations in their entirety. Details of each recommendation and proposed actions to be taken following approval by Cabinet are provided in the Action Plan attached at **Appendix A**.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 That Members note the proposed actions detailed within the Action Plan, appended to this report (**Appendix A**) and seek clarification on its content where felt appropriate.

**Contact Officer:-** Denise Ogden – Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)  
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#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

- (i) The Regeneration and Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's Final Report 'Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Abuse' considered by Cabinet on 23 May 2011.
- (ii) Decision Record of Cabinet held on 23 May 2011.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN****4.1 (b) Appendix A****NAME OF FORUM: Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum****NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY: Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Abuse****DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT: May 2011**

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION</b>	<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>DELIVERY TIMESCALE</b>
(a) That promotion of support and assistant 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.	This campaign will be included in Harbours promotional strategy for 2011/12 in conjunction with the DV Forum, Reducing Violence group & Safer Hartlepool Partnership. As a result of the loss of the Funding for publicity and marketing the SHP will rely heavily on cross departmental support in highlighting services linked to male victims of domestic abuse, and therefore utilising any existing and available material by the Home Office/other sources. In relation to (a)(ii) steps will continue to be taken in ensuring dissemination of information to the public is achieved by a range of methods and not relying solely upon internet.	Financial cost of campaigns and publicity material which SHP does not currently have in the climate of financial constraint. However as outlined in the response column departmental support and available Home Office material will be utilised where possible.	Brian Neale	31 October 2011
(b) That the provision of a helpline specifically for male victims of	Harbour already have an 0845 number which is promoted for both	If 0845 number is utilised then nil or	Brian Neale	31 October 2011

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

4.1 (b) Appendix A

**NAME OF FORUM:** Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

**NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY:** Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Abuse

**DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT:** May 2011

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
	domestic abuse is investigated with the Safer Hartlepool Partnership;	male and female victims, ensuring a single point of contact for all support services. The SHP will investigate this, but given financial constraints it may be sensible and appropriate to consider the promotion of the 0845 number as outlined above as an appropriate helpline number.	limited cost. If a dedicated line then costs are likely and to be explored.	
(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.	As Avanticom, are no longer involved as the result of contract termination due to financial constraints, steps are being taken through HBC links to manage the SHP website. Harbour have agreed to provide appropriate information targeted at male victims. Once the management of the website is clearly understood by all parties, then the Community Safety Manager will ensure that this action is fulfilled and links made. In relation to recommendation (ii) information can be accessed at the present time with limited searching,	None likely	Brian Neale
				31 August 2011

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

4.1 (b) Appendix A

**NAME OF FORUM:** Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

**NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY:** Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Abuse

**DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT:** May 2011

RECOMMENDATION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE	
		however in the spirit of review it will be examined more closely to see if we can improve this process.			
(d)	That work is undertaken in conjunction with the Child and Adult Services Department to investigation the potential to deliver non gender specific domestic abuse prevention programmes at a school level.	The Community Safety Manager will ensure discussions take place with Child & Adult Services and appropriate partners, to establish the level of delivery re non gender specific domestic abuse issues in schools and if this needs to be improved an appropriate action plan will be developed.	Currently unknown pending enquiries with relevant departments and partners.	Brian Neale	30 November 2011
(e)	That 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;	The Safer Hartlepool Partnership will explore this opportunity but financial constraints must be taken into consideration. Links have already been made on a regional basis to key partners and this will be explored further.	Obvious cost implications but specifics unknown until exploratory work undertaken.	Brian Neale	31 May 2012

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ENQUIRY ACTION PLAN

4.1 (b) Appendix A

**NAME OF FORUM:** Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

**NAME OF SCRUTINY ENQUIRY:** Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Abuse

**DECISION MAKING DATE OF FINAL REPORT:** May 2011

RECOMMENDATION		EXECUTIVE RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	DELIVERY TIMESCALE
	(ii) Undertaking a cross authority review to determine the demand for a male refuge.	Harbour is happy to contribute to the review but our research and experience suggests that support for male victims will be best met through community based services, including accommodation provided in individual properties.	As above	Brian Neale	31 May 2012

# REGENERATION AND PLANNING SCRUTINY FORUM REPORT

21 July 2011



**Report of:** Scrutiny Support Officer

**Subject:** THE ROLE OF THE REGENERATION AND  
PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

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## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To give an overview of the role and functions of the Regeneration and Planning Scrutiny Forum.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council's approach to Overview and Scrutiny has been informed by government guidance, best practice nationally and experience of what works locally to ensure that the Scrutiny Forum's operate in an optimum scrutiny structure that will enable the Forums to add value and improve services for the residents of Hartlepool.
- 2.2 The role of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee is briefly discussed in the following section. Following this in section 4, there is a more detailed description of the roles and functions of this forum.

## 3. ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

- 3.1 The membership of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee reflects both the Council's political make-up and the five standing Scrutiny Forums (which are equally represented on the Committee). A total of sixteen Elected Members serve on the Committee, consisting of the Chair (appointed by Council) and the Chair, Vice-Chair and one other Members from each of the five standing Forums. In addition to this, three Resident representatives are also co-opted onto the Committee, one from each Neighbourhood Consultative Forum.
- 3.2 This approach enables the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to draw on the experience of a variety of Members, represent a cross-section of political views and equally represent each of the five standing Forums. The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee is responsible for the overall management of Overview and Scrutiny within the Authority. Other authorities' experience of

scrutiny appears to have benefited from the establishment of such a body. Given the increasing importance of the scrutiny role under the new arrangements and the likely increase in workload of the scrutiny function the role of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee is invaluable. The main roles and functions of the committee are as follows:-

- (i) To work with the five Forums to decide an annual Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme, including the programme of any ad-hoc Forum that it appoints, to ensure that there is efficient use of the Forums and that the potential for duplication of effort is minimised;
- (ii) To lead the involvement of Overview and Scrutiny in the development of the budget and the plans and strategies that make up the policy framework and to delegate issues for consideration to the Forums;
- (iii) Where matters fall within the remit of more than one Overview and Scrutiny Forum, to determine which of them will assume responsibility for any particular issue and to resolve any issues of dispute between overview and scrutiny Forums;
- (iv) To receive requests from Members, the executive and/or the full council for items (including those referred via the Councillor Call for Action mechanism) to be considered by overview and scrutiny forums and to allocate them, if appropriate to one or more overview and scrutiny forum;
- (v) To put in place and maintain a system to ensure reports from Overview and Scrutiny to the Executive are managed efficiently and do not exceed any limits set out in the Constitution (this includes making decisions about the priority of reports, if the volume of such reports creates difficulty for the management of Executive business or jeopardises the efficient running of the Council business);
- (vi) To exercise the power of call-in in relation to Executive decisions made as set out in Section 21 (3) of the Local Government Act 2000, or allocate them to the appropriate overview and scrutiny Forum for consideration; and
- (vii) Assessing, monitoring and advising on the role of the Council's central support services in supporting the Council's progress towards the Community Strategy's priority aims, including:-
  - General policies of the Council relating to the efficient use of resources (people, money, property, information technology); and
  - District Auditor performance reports, the District Auditor's Annual Audit Letter, Best Value Performance Indicators and health and safety issues.



#### **4. FUNCTIONS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FORUMS**

4.1 The five standing Overview and Scrutiny Forums have three main functions and these are set out in the following paragraphs:-

(a) Policy Development and Review

Overview and Scrutiny Forums may:

- (i) Assist the Council and the Executive in the development of the budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;
- (ii) Conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
- (iii) Consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
- (iv) Question members of the Executive and Chief Officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area; and
- (v) Liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working.

(b) Scrutiny

Overview and Scrutiny Forums may:

- (i) Review and scrutinise the decisions of the Executive and Chief Officers both in relation to individual decisions and their overall strategic direction;
- (ii) Review and scrutinise the work of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
- (iii) Question members of the Executive and Chief Officers about their decisions, whether generally in comparison with the service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects;
- (iv) Review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area, requesting them to attend and address relevant scrutiny forums to speak about their activities and performance;
- (v) Investigate other issues of local concern, outside the control of the Council and other public bodies in the area, and make recommendations to the Council, the Executive and / or other organisations arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;

- (vi) Question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent); and
- (vii) Make recommendations to the executive and / or the council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process.

(c) Finance

Overview and Scrutiny Committees may exercise overall responsibility for the finances made available to them. This presently consists of a dedicated overview and scrutiny budget of 50k. Applications for funding must be made through Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.

## 5. THE REMIT OF THIS FORUM

- 5.1 The strategic direction of the Scrutiny Forums will be to assess, monitor and advise on the Council's progress towards the 7 priority aims of the Community Strategy whilst the operational direction of the individual Scrutiny Forums will be governed by the remits outlined in the Constitution.

The remit of the Regeneration and Planning Scrutiny Forum is as follows:-

*'To consider issues relating to regeneration, the Community Strategy, building control, development control, economic development, landscape and conservation, strategic housing and community safety.'*

- 5.2 There will be, however, from time to time, be issues that could be considered by more than one forum and it will be for the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to determine which forum should examine a particular issue. It is also open to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to appoint ad hoc forums. For example, where an issue comes within the remit of two scrutiny forums, the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee could decide to establish an ad hoc forum made up of four Members from each of those two Forums.

## 6. SCHEDULE OF FORUM DATES FOR 2011/12

- 6.1 Detailed below, for Members information, are the scheduled dates for meetings of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum in 2011/12. Please note that all scheduled meetings will commence at 3.00pm, in various venues across the town, with the capacity for additional meetings to be arranged where required to accommodate the needs of individual inquiries.

Thursday 1 September 2011;  
 Thursday 29 September 2011;  
 Thursday 3 November 2011;  
 Thursday 24 November 2011;  
 Thursday 19 January 2012;  
 Thursday 2 February 2012; and  
 Thursday 8 March 2012.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 No specific action is required as a result of this report, however, Members may have questions about the role of the Forum.

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

- (i) Hartlepool Borough Council Constitution.

## REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

21 July 2011



**Report of:** Scrutiny Support Officer

**Subject:** REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES  
SCRUTINY FORUM'S WORK PROGRAMME FOR  
2011/12

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To confirm the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's work programme for 2011/12.

### 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 24 June 2011; to which all Members of the Forum were invited; the Regeneration and Planning Services Forum's Work Programme was agreed for 2011/12 as follows:-

#### **Forum Investigation**

It was agreed that the main investigation to be undertaken by the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum would be the issue of Housing Regeneration, with a specific focus on existing homes. Members agreed that should the Forum have capacity the issue of Employment and Training Opportunities for Young Adults aged 19+ would be considered as a second investigation.

Following further consideration, the Chair of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum would like to propose to Forum members that the issue of Employment and Training Opportunities for Young Adults aged 19+ is now considered as the sole topic for investigation during the 2011/12 Municipal year. Further details regarding the two investigation proposals are attached as **Appendices A & B**.

### **Budget Items**

Budget 2012/13

Economic Development

- 2.2 It has been agreed that budget items relating to Housing and Youth Justice will now be considered by the Neighbourhood Services and Children's Services Scrutiny Forums respectively, given the relevance of these items to the work of those Forums.
- 2.3 Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee also agreed that the topic of Empty Homes; a suggestion put forward to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum as an item for investigation; should be incorporated into the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum Investigation into Private Sector Housing Schemes.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum is requested to:-
  - (i) Consider the request from the Chair of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum to amend the work programme as detailed in paragraph 2.1;
  - (ii) Subject to the Forums consideration of (i); submit a revised work programme for approval to the next available meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.

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### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

- (i) Minutes of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee 24 June 2011.

<p><b>Topic:</b></p> <p>Housing Regeneration.</p>
<p><b>Aim</b></p> <p>To explore housing regeneration schemes in Hartlepool.</p>
<p><b>Background Information</b></p> <p>Potentially a joint piece of work with the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum to review housing regeneration schemes in place, their success and the effect on local communities.</p> <p>Hartlepool Borough Council's key strategic roles are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the Housing Partnership, produce the Housing Strategy.</li> <li>• Assess housing 'need' and enable affordable housing to be developed.</li> <li>• Work towards a balanced housing market in the town.</li> <li>• Support the work of the Housing Partnership.</li> <li>• Consult with residents of on important issues relating to housing.</li> <li>• Obtain external funding for housing.</li> <li>• Work with sub-regional partners to produce, monitor and implement the Sub Regional Housing Strategy.</li> <li>• Influence the Regional Housing Strategy.</li> <li>• Ensure there is access to housing, including working with sub regional partners to implement and run a Choice Based Letting Scheme.</li> </ul> <p>The new Housing Strategy (2011-15) is currently out to consultation. The strategy comprises of three main topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Homes/New &amp; Sustainable Communities</li> <li>• Existing Homes/Ensuring Sustainable Communities</li> <li>• Meeting Specific Needs</li> </ul> <p>Suggested potential areas to examine / explore could include the following:-</p> <p>(a) To gain an understanding of:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) housing regeneration, what it delivers and its effects on the local community (including communities on the outskirts of regeneration areas);</li> <li>(ii) potential future legislation which may affect housing regeneration.</li> </ol> <p>(b) To evaluate whether housing regeneration should continue to be provided in its current form to deliver effective and efficient ways of working.</p> <p>(c) To feed into the 2011 – 2015 Housing Strategy consultation.</p>

**What would be the desired area(s) of impact / benefit resulting from the investigation?**

An evaluation of the current housing regeneration schemes in place resulting in improved ways of working that are both efficient and effective.

To positively contribute to the housing strategy 2011-2015 consultation.

**Investigation Requirements.**

Are there any factors affecting the commencement or delivery deadlines of the investigation, such as the consultation period for the Housing Strategy 2011-2015.

How many Forum meetings would the identified areas for investigation require?

**Corporate Plan Actions / Pi's and LAA targets to which the issue relates.**

None

<p><b>Topic:</b></p> <p>Employment and Training Opportunities for Young Adults aged 19+</p>
<p><b>Aim</b></p> <p>To explore the issue of training and employment opportunities in Hartlepool for young people aged 19+, but in particular those in their early to mid twenties, who left school prior to the advent of NEETS and the introduction of structured information, advice, guidance and tracking via Connexions.</p>
<p><b>Background Information</b></p> <p>Suggested potential areas to examine / explore could include the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) To gain an understanding of:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the cohort covered by unemployment as described above (age range etc);</li> <li>(ii) background to key economic factors in the local economy and economic trends;</li> <li>(iii) the Local Authorities and partner agencies responsibilities in this area.</li> </ul> </li> <li>(b) To explore the services currently provided regarding unemployment for this age group (including any potential gaps in service provision) by:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the Local Authorities (including responsibilities for 19+ and apprentices etc);</li> <li>(ii) partnership working;</li> </ul> </li> <li>(c) To explore how effective the current service provision is and if it should continue to be provided in the existing way;</li> <li>(d) How support should be provided in the future taking in to consideration future funding streams and the current budgetary situation the Council and its partners face.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What would be the desired area(s) of impact / benefit resulting from the investigation?</b></p> <p>An evaluation of the current programmes and assistance in place to help people back in to employment, education and training resulting in improved ways of working that are both efficient and effective.</p>
<p><b>Investigation Requirements.</b></p> <p>Are there any factors affecting the commencement or delivery deadlines of the investigation?</p> <p>How many Forum meetings would the identified areas for investigation require?</p>
<p><b>Corporate Plan Actions / Pi's and LAA targets to which the issue relates.</b></p> <p>Theme: Jobs and the Economy  Outcome: People have greater access to employment and skills opportunities  Indicator: NI 151 Overall Employment rate (proportion of people of working age population</p>



who are in employment)