

NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



Wednesday, 14th June, 2006

at 10.00 a.m.

at West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue

MEMBERS: NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:

Councillors D Allison, S Allison, Barker, Clouth, R Cook, Fenwick, Fleet, Griffin, Jackson, J Marshall, Shaw, Wallace, D Waller, Wright.

Resident Representatives:

Dennis Brightey, Jim Hastings, Ted Lee, John Lynch, Mary Power, Linda Shields.

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 meeting held on 22nd March, 2006 (attached)

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

6. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION

6.1 Presentation - The H₂O Feasibility Study – a future water sports centre for Hartlepool – Consultation on the Study Conclusions. - *John Mennear, Assistant Director, Community Services.*

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION / DECISION

- 7.1 Minor Works Budget – Annual Allocation of Funding for 2006/07– Acting Director of Neighbourhood Services
- 7.2 North Hartlepool Partnership SRB Update – North Hartlepool Partnership Manager.
- 7.3 Community Strategy Review – Report to be presented by a member of the Hartlepool Partnership Support Team.

8. RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE ISSUES

9. WARD ISSUES

10. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 9th August 2006 at 6pm – venue to be arranged.

11. ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

WARDS

Brus
Dyke House
Hart
St Hilda
Throston

NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

22nd March 2006

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



PRESENT:

Chair:	Councillor Rob Cook	- Hart Ward
Vice Chair:	Linda Shields, Deputy Vice-Chair (Resident Representative)	
	Councillor Derek Allison	- St Hilda Ward
	Councillor Caroline Barker	- Hart Ward
	Councillor John Cambridge	- St Hilda Ward
	Councillor Mary Fleet	- Dyke House Ward
	Councillor Sheila Griffin	- Brus Ward
	Councillor John Marshall	- St Hilda Ward
	Councillor Denis Waller	- Brus Ward
	Councillor Edna Wright	- Hart Ward

Resident Representatives: Ted Lee

Public: Stephen Allison, Mr Cooke, Liz and Kath Torley, Cal Carruthers-Watt, Alan Vale, Dave Thompson, Dennis Wilson, Paul McCraith

Officers: Karen Oliver, Chris Little, Dave Thompson, Mike Pearson, Gary Jones, Alistair Smith, Phil Hepburn, Andy Elvidge, Peter Frost, John Ford, Genevieve Parker, Fiona Riley, M Dunn, Pat Watson.

Hartlepool Primary Care Trust Representatives: John Roebuck (Ch Exec), Ali Wilson, Mary Bewley, Kevin Aston

W S Atkins Representative: Iain Roberts

72. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fenwick and Shaw. Also from Resident Representatives Mary Power, John Lynch, Jim Hastings and Dennis Brightey.

The Chairman and members of the Forum agreed that a card expressing good wishes for a speedy recovery be sent to John Lynch.

73. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

There were no declarations of interest.

74. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2006 were confirmed.

Matters arising:

Speed Humps Speeding Drive - Dave Thompson gave an update on this issue and expressed the view that at least one of the speed humps was at an inappropriate height and he continued to receive complaints. Discussion took place and the Head of Technical Services requested that the complaint(s) be submitted in writing. Dave Thompson agreed to arrange for this to happen. A St Hilda Ward Cllr reminded the Forum that if cars are damaged then claims should be submitted to the Council.

Litter and fly-tipping at Oaksway Trading Estate / Kwik Save site and surrounding area – A St Hilda Ward Cllr asked for an update. KO agreed that the whole boundary site was in a state. She had been liaising with other officers who had written to the owners. A number of different companies owned stretches. A warning letter had been sent to Biz Space and they had asked for a price from the Council for removal of the rubbish. This had been supplied but no reply received to date. KO said before action could be taken on fly-tipping, evidence is needed. Large items of rubbish had been removed but there was an added problem of shrubs and maintenance in general. KO had also discussed the possibility of a project with ILM (Intermediate Labour Market) to see if they would work with the companies.

A resident indicated that he had met with officers 4 weeks before the meeting and looked at the problem areas. He had suggested that shrubs be removed and Warren Road area be reinstated as grassed area. Further discussion took place about the original planting of the shrubs and if this had been done by the Council then should the Council be responsible for clearing the rubbish from them? KO advised that there was ongoing action and enforcement and she would keep the Forum informed.

A Brus Ward Cllr advised of **excellent clearing up work carried out by children from the Baptist Church** and the Forum agreed that they be complimented on the work.

Warren Road – A Cllr reported the bad state of repair of roads, pavements, gullies etc in this area. This had been reported a number of years ago and was now becoming a danger to pedestrians and motorists.

A St Hilda Ward Cllr asked for an update on the **Priory Court** litter issue – KO advised that investigation had revealed that HBC is responsible and she needs to find finance for a scheme for the embankment – she was working with Albert Cope and would keep the St Hilda ward Cllrs informed. The Cllr said that bushes were encroaching on the pavement and requested that the area be put back to grassed

Central Estate – Residents reported that rubbish was still being left following refuse collection day. The residents asked the Forum to note the great action that was being carried out by the Police in relation to motor bikes etc. The residents also asked for a letter of thanks to go from the Forum thanking those carry out work on the bushes etc in West View Road.

Speed Cameras – A resident asked for feedback on the Saxon Camera issue. The Head of Technical Services reported on the investigation visits. He advised that he has a priority of cutting down speeding to save lives. Those in attendance were offered a DVD from the Camera Partnership Team which was informative.

Phoenix Centre – Central Estate residents indicated that they had received 2 letters from John Mennear and the issue was now in the hands of the Legal Section. Discussion took place and Councillors and residents expressed the wish that the Centre be brought back into use as quickly as possible. KO advised that JM would bring a report to the Forum but she was unsure as to what could be discussed in an open Forum. A St Hilda Ward Councillor indicated that he had a copy of the report requested earlier and would provide copies if allowed to under the Legislation (which was being checked out).

Central Estate Pedestrian Island – A Resident Rep asked for an update on this issue – Peter Frost advised the current situation. Discussion took place and the Chair requested that PF arrange for a further traffic/speed survey to be done and reported to the Forum.

75. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Litter around Hospital hedge – The resident who had previously reported this issue indicated that the area had still not been cleared and he asked for a meeting with Officers to show them the problems. Other residents present advised that they had made similar complaints. The North Neighbourhood Manager (GJ) advised that he was working with hospital staff and some of the work had been done.

The Chairman advised that he was to meet with the Head of Environmental Management (DS) to talk about a number of areas in the North that have no cyclical maintenance. The Chairman said he would be requesting that something be put in the budget to look at such areas.

Un-adopted/untidy land – A Hart ward Councillor expressed the view that the Council's legal department were responsible for delays in land being adopted – she asked for a letter to go to the Chief Solicitor. KO advised that the whole issue of untidy buildings and land had been examined and action was underway. Delays following requests by residents to buy strips of land in Fomby Road was mentioned – The Hart Ward Councillor asked for the Chief Solicitor to advise on the reason for delay.

Cleaning of streets schedule and number of staff – A Cllr commented that in the North there are 6 people and 2 machines to carry out the cleaning of areas and 3 senior officers to report to. He felt it was necessary to have more frontline staff on duty. Another Cllr accepted that there was a cleaning schedule list but that was not much use if it's not kept to.

A resident (DO) read out a list of problem areas that he had report to KO.

The Chairman and KO confirmed that all the issues raised were being examined in the review towards setting up a revised Strategy across the North. The Chairman added that lots of the rubbish in areas is from people in that area, "we all know the problems and areas – what we have to do as responsible people is try to educate people not to throw rubbish about".

Warren Street – Alleygates – Residents of Warren Street would like to know if alleygates are to be fitted. Some residents had asked some time ago and

believed that consultation had been carried out which supported alleygates. KO agreed to check this and get back to St Hilda Ward Cllr (DA).

Junction King Oswy Drive/West View Road – A Resident advised of the problems that were occurring since the road changes had been made at King Oswy Drive/West View Road roundabout. He felt that a lay-by was needed or the side road made into one-way only. PF indicated that a survey had been carried out and that a lay-by would help the situation. However, it was a matter of funding and priority. 2 Hart Ward Councillors said there had been a crash in the area and they felt strongly that action needed to be taken. They asked for costs to be brought to the Forum for possible consideration under Minor Works proposals.

Toucan crossing near King Oswy School – Timing problems were reported and PF agreed to investigate.

76. PRESENTATION - PRIMARY CARE TRUST - CONSULTATION - LOCAL DELIVERY PLAN AND TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

Ali Wilson from the PCT gave a presentation on the Town Centre Health Development – A proposal to build a major health centre on the site of the former Barlow's printing works. This has been shaped by local views to date and was a big set towards modernisation of Primary Care health facilities across the town. The presentation contained slides on

- "Why do it?"
- Existing facilities at Caroline Street
- Primary and Community Care Issues
- What the Centre can provide
- Additional purposes
- Next steps in 2006 and in 2007/08

With the Centre being in operation in early 2009.

Consultation was being undertaken up until 19th May 2006 with;

- GP surgeries, dentists and libraries
- Community Network
- Patient and Public Involvement Forum
- Neigh. Consult. Forums
- Hartlepool Partnership Group
- Health and Care Strategy Group

The following questions/issues arose:

- Car Parking facilities – Discussion took place and Ali confirmed that this had been taken into consideration;
- St Benedict's House – also to be demolished;
- Have professionals been consulted on accommodation/facilities? – Ali advised the PCT were working with local GPs;

The HPCT Chief Executive, John Roebuck, then gave a presentation on the Hartlepool PCT Local Delivery Plan 2006/08. The presentation slides described the following:

- Key objectives;
- Vision for Care principles;
- New Services;
- New Infrastructure;
- Fitness for purpose;
- Current financial position;
- Prime reasons;

The presentation also contained detailed budgetary information and actions to be taken to achieve a balanced budget. The requirements from the PCT Board and PEC members were also outlined.

Councillors and residents told the Forum about their bad experiences in relation to

appointments and waiting times and John indicated that hospitals were aware of problem areas and were striving to improve.

A Res Rep asked how the PCT could curtail emergency admissions to hospital. John said it depends on the level of need – some patients can be dealt with in the community facilities. The Chairman advised of a recent visit by the Health Scrutiny Forum to Dr Thackur's premises on the Headland and the additional services to be provided.

A resident raised concerns about any withdrawal from voluntary sector services. John confirmed that some voluntary sector initiatives would continue to be supported but some may have to go.

The Chairman asked for any further questions to be dealt with after the meeting or in writing to the PCT. He thanked John and Ali for their informative presentations.

77. PRESENTATION - BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2005/06 to 2007/08

The Assistant Chief Financial Officer, Chris Little, gave a presentation on the above – covering the following:

- 2005/06 Budget position
- 2006/07 Capital Budget
- 2006/07 Revenue Budget and Council Tax
- 2007/08 Revenue Budget and Council Tax
- Reserves

Pie charts and a graph were used to illustrate some of the issues, a history of Council Tax was outlined and Government Grants to the Council were described.

The ACFO concluded by reminding those at the Forum that advice on Council Tax Benefit was available, as follows:

- Benefits Exhibition – 27th April 06 from 9am to 4pm in Middleton Grange Shopping Centre;
- Weekly benefits surgeries – Housing Hartlepool Offices as follows;
- Monday - Owton Manor 1pm to 3pm
- Tuesday – West View 2pm to 4pm
- Wednesday – Chester Road 11am to 3pm
- Thursday – Owton Manor 1pm to 4pm
- Friday – Headland 1.30pm to 3pm

Telephone Number for enquiries about the above - 284188.

The Chairman asked for any questions on the presentation or budget to be directed to the ACFO in writing to the Civic Centre or by telephone to 523010.

78. NORTH HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP PROJECT UPDATE

The Forum received a report updating on progress relating to activities and project development by the North Hartlepool Partnership, in the following projects:

- Town Square
- Car Parking
- Delivery Plan for 2006/07

The Results of the NHP Motor Vehicle Parking and Traffic Management Consultation were also circulated with the report.

The NRP Manager, John Ford, circulated copies of a post-card about the Headland Town Square Archaeological Excavation 2006 and Medieval Hartlepool.

The Forum noted the report.

79. COAST DEFENCE STRATEGY STUDY - NORTH SANDS TO NEWBURN BRIDGE

The Director of Neighbourhood Services had circulated a report to inform Members of the North NC Forum regarding the recent Coast Defence Strategy Study Report and the recommendations considered by Cabinet on 27th February 2006. (A copy of the Cabinet report was attached as an appendix). Cabinet had agreed to adopt the Study Report.

Iain Roberts from W S Atkijns (Consultants engaged to carry out the Study) gave a presentation to the Forum to advise of the potential risks and financial implications of the options recommended in the plan.

The slides covered the following:

- Why a Strategy Study
- Background
- Constraints and Issues
- Priority Score
- Strategy Units
- North Sands (C5-1)
- Headland (C6-1)
- Heugh Breakwater (C6-2)
- Town Wall (C6-3)
- Marina (C6-4) North Pier

The Scheme Summary indicated the action(s) to be taken, developments and protection over the next 0-5 years, 5-10 years and 10-20 years in the case of the Marina.

The Forum was advised that

- £15M of capital investment was needed over the next 10 years;
- Only £0.5m currently qualifies for Defra support;
- Up to £250k p.a. revenue for maintenance could be required.

The Strategy Study Conclusions were:

- Strategy has had to deal with difficult issues;
- It has justified options to upgrade the Headland walls and Heugh breakwater in the medium term;
- Grant aid for this work will depend on future government spending priorities;
- The present policy is to maintain the existing walls on a reactive basis but using monitoring and inspection to target resources.

The following questions/comments arose:

- Disagreement with the statement of the Consultant that the Heugh Breakwater just protects the Block Sands. – “if it goes it will affect the North Pier and then the Marina”.
- Global warming will have affects.
- Feelings that the Strategy had not looked at the relevant issues.
- “This is a disaster” for the Headland issues – its seems to say just let it go which is not acceptable – its all about money.
- When the Heugh was breached some time ago there was damaged caused to the Town Wall – can be proved historically.
- The presentation agrees the problems but seems to say let the Heugh fall down.
- The qualifications of the Consultants were questioned.
- This has massive implications for the Central Estate also.

Residents advised the Forum of events and history relating to the Heugh Breakwater and felt there was a need for a lot more consultation.

It was understood by Officers that the issue would go to Council on 13th April

2006 and Councillors and the public would have an opportunity to voice their concerns then.

St Hilda Ward Councillors asked for arrangements to be made for the Hart Ward, Brus Ward and St Hilda Ward Councillors to meet with relevant Officers and the Consultants to discuss areas of concern. The Chairman agreed to this action

The Forum rejected the findings of the Study and requested further consultation.

80. VERBAL UPDATE ON TRAFFIC/PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Phil Hepburn, the Council's Car Parking Manager, advised that offences do not now go through the criminal courts. Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) are issued by Parking Patrol Officers and he estimated that they would equate to between 10,000 to 12,000 tickets per annum as to-date the PCN's issued were averaging approx. 800 per month. Emphasis was being put on yellow line offences and problems around schools. Camera evidence cannot yet be used and officers must serve PCN's to drivers at the time of the offence, PCN's can not be forwarded retrospectively. Warnings had been given at first but officers were now passed that stage. One problem was that it takes time to issue a ticket by which time others have moved on. Some areas around schools have been "blitzed" and work is being carried out in conjunction with the Road Safety Team.

81. NORTH HARTLEPOOL NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN

A report of the Head of Regeneration and a copy of the final draft (March 2006) of the North Hartlepool Community (Brus and St Hilda Wards) Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) and a Summary of the

NAP had been circulated with the Agenda to seek the endorsement of the North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum.

The Principal Regeneration Officer, Genevieve Parker, gave a verbal update and referred to a further summary document identifying the specific actions raised for each of the three areas within the North Hartlepool area: West View/King Oswy, Central Estate and Headland a copy of which was available at the meeting.

The Forum noted the considerable work that had taken place with residents, young people, Councillors, community and voluntary groups and service providers and endorsed the final draft subject to any further comments to be received by the 31st March 2006.

82. MINOR WORKS PROPOSAL - DROPPED CROSSING

The Forum was reminded of their previous commitment to providing dropped crossings in the North Area on a rolling programme basis. £3,500 had been allocated to the scheme during the current financial year and it was proposed that a further £3,500 be allocated for next financial year. This was accepted by the Forum as it was felt the continued improvements were necessary.

83. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Members, Resident Representatives and residents will be advised of meeting dates for the 2006/07 Municipal Year as soon as the new diary is available.

ROB COOK

CHAIRMAN

Report of: North Neighbourhood Manager

Subject: Proposed Development of the North Neighbourhood Action Plan

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek agreement for the framework proposed to assist in the delivery of the North Neighbourhood Action Plan.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The North Hartlepool Neighbourhood Action Plan is the sixth NAP to be developed in the town.
- 2.2 NAPs are important in encouraging local people and organisations to work together to narrow the gap between the most deprived wards and the rest of the country. They should be influential in the future allocation of resources. The objective of the NAP is to integrate policies at the local level to improve the way that services are provided.
- 2.3 NAPs are the local elements of the Hartlepool Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. The Strategy forms part of the Community Strategy and the overall policy framework for the Borough and sets out the long-term vision for Hartlepool and the approach to the continuous improvement of services.
- 2.4 The NAPs have been structured in a way that is intended to give a clear picture of the strong themes running through the NAP, which relate back to the sister documents of the Community Strategy and the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. The seven themes are:
- Jobs and Economy
 - Lifelong Learning
 - Health and Care
 - Community Safety
 - Environment and Housing
 - Culture and Leisure
 - Strengthening Communities
- 2.5 The North Hartlepool NAP covers two wards, St Hilda and Brus. Within these two wards there are three distinguished neighbourhoods.
- Headland
 - Central Estate
 - West View/King Oswy

- 2.6 Local forums have been established in other NAP areas, which bring together residents, service providers and ward councillors. These local forums have been an effective way of ensuring the actions are progressed and funding allocations are spent on residents' priorities.
- 2.7 Due to the size of the North NAP, it is important that a sound framework can be established to bring residents and service providers together, but to also be efficient and effective enough to deliver local residents aspirations and needs.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 Hartlepool Partnership has agreed to allocate £201,500 of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding over the next two financial years (2006-08) and £430,000 Neighbourhood Element funding over the next four years (2006-10) for the North Hartlepool NAP area to start addressing some of the residents' priorities. This funding will be spent once the NAP is endorsed and the local forum is established. Below illustrates the allocations for each year.

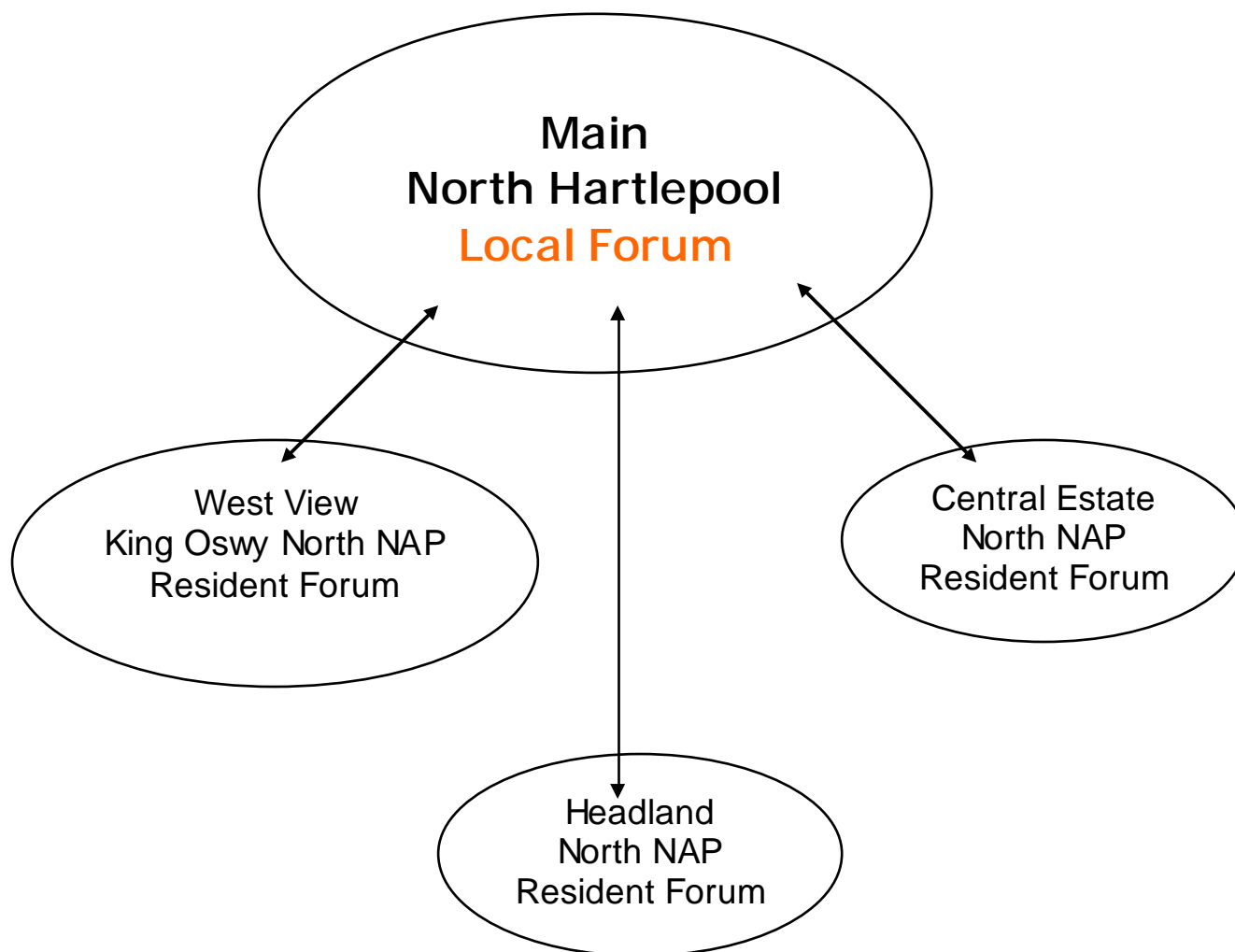
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	Total
N'hood Element	112,600	153,700	112,600	51,100	430,000
NRF	153,000	48,500	-	-	201,500
Total	265,600	202,200	112,600	51,100	631,500

- 3.2 The local forum in each NAP area focus the Neighbourhood Element funding on one particular theme such as jobs and economy, lifelong learning, health and care, community safety or environment and housing. Discussions with Government Office have indicated that this targeted approach would be beneficial in seeing a real tangible improvement for the funding allocated. The Hartlepool Partnership Support Team will work with local forums to identify the planned outcomes from the funding.
- 3.3 Therefore one of the first decisions of the newly formed North NAP Local Forum will be to decide on which of the priority themes they wish to concentrate the Neighbourhood Element funding over the next four years. There is the flexibility for each of the three sub areas of the Headland, Central Estate and West View/King Oswy to determine their own priority. The Neighbourhood Element will be divided on the basis of population and relative deprivation, as outlined in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.4 The North Hartlepool Local Forum will also decide how the Neighbourhood Renewal Funding will be used to fund residents priorities. The NRF funding can be prioritised upon any of the key actions outlined in the final NAP.

4. PROPOSED FRAMEWORK

4.1 The proposed framework involves the development of: -

- a. Main North Hartlepool NAP Local Forum
- b. Three North Hartlepool NAP Residents Fora



4.2 The role of the main North Hartlepool Local Forum will be to have overall responsibility for delivering and monitoring the Final North Hartlepool NAP. It will respond to decisions made at the three North NAP Resident Forums.

4.3 It is proposed that the members of this group should include: -

- **Key Service Providers**

Which should cover each of the seven Community Strategy themes. It is acknowledged that a number of organisations will deliver services that are crosscutting. This we see will be an advantage overall.

The proposed representatives are: -

Jobs and Economy – HBC Economic Development & Action Team for Jobs

Lifelong Learning – HBC Education & HBC Adult Education.

Health and Care – Primary Care Trust & Sure Start.

Crime and Community Safety – HBC Community Safety Team & Hartlepool Police.

Environment and Housing – Housing Hartlepool & HBC Highways.

Culture and Leisure – HBC Children's' Services & HBC Community Services / Sports Development.

Strengthening Communities – Community Network & Housing Hartlepool Residents Participation Officer.

There will be the flexibility to invite other service providers if required to discuss any issues which they may be key to resolving.

- **Resident Representatives**

Two resident representatives will be elected (deputies can be placed in their absence), from each of the three North Hartlepool NAP Resident Forums.

- **Ward Members**

It is proposed that Ward Members, from each ward, attend the main North NAP Consultative Forum.

- **Headland Parish Council**

It is proposed that two representatives of the Parish Council attend the main North NAP Consultative Forum.

- **Voluntary Organisations**

It is recognised that voluntary organisations play an important role in the North NAP area, and it is therefore proposed that each key organisation may be represented by one person. Faith Communities are included under this category.

- 4.4 The 3 North Hartlepool NAP residents' fora should be open to all residents to attend. They should also include existing resident groups and active members of the community.
- 4.5 The role of these groups will be to discuss issues around each theme. They should direct and inform the spending, and play a crucial part in the monitoring of the North Hartlepool NAP. These decisions will be fed into the main North Hartlepool NAP Local Forum, where all representatives will ensure that funding streams and resources are targeted at a local level to resolve issues raised by local people.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Forum is asked to consider the proposed framework for the North Neighbourhood Action Plan

NORTH HARTLEPOOL NAP FUNDING FOR 2006-2010

Introduction

There are two funding pots available for the North Hartlepool NAP: -

1. Neighbourhood Element Funding – to be focussed on one theme
2. NRF Funding for Residents NAP Priorities – can be focussed on any priorities outlined in the NAP

Funding by Area

There are a number of distinct communities within the North Hartlepool NAP Area: -

1. Central Estate
2. Headland
3. West View/King Oswy

In order to improve commitment from the local community at this early stage of NAP development the funding has been divided on the basis of population size and relative deprivation. This approach has been endorsed by the Hartlepool Partnership.

Criteria for Allocating Funding

The Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit (TVJSU) have provided estimates on the population for each of the three areas within the North Hartlepool NAP area who live in areas classified as deprived by the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 (worst 10% areas in the country).

TVJSU estimate that in Central Estate 1,510 residents live in a deprived area.

TVJSU estimate that in Headland 1,769 residents live in a deprived area.

TVJSU estimate that in West View/King Oswy 4,753 residents live in a deprived area.

Overall 8,032 people in the North Hartlepool NAP area live in areas classified as disadvantaged (i.e within the 10% most deprived areas in the country). Tables 1 and 2 below set out the funding to each area on the basis of the information above i.e that 19% of the disadvantaged population live in Central Estate so that area is allocated 19% of the available funding.

Table 1 – Annual Neighbourhood Element Allocations

Neighbourhood Element Annual Allocation	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	Total Allocation
North Hartlepool	112,600	153,700	112,600	51,100	430,000
West View/King Oswy (59%)	66,400	90,700	66,400	30,200	253,700
Headland (22%)	24,800	33,800	24,800	11,200	94,600
Central Estate (19%)	21,400	29,200	21,400	9,700	81,700

Note: Neighbourhood Element Funding for 2008 onwards is indicative and is yet to be confirmed in the Governments Spending Review expected in 2007.

Table 2 – NRF Funding for Residents NAP Priorities

NRF - NAP Priorities Budget	2006/07 Allocation	2007/08 Allocation	Total Allocation
North Hartlepool	153,000	48,500	201,500
West View/King Oswy (59%)	90,300	28,600	118,900
Headland (22%)	33,700	10,700	44,400
Central Estate (19%)	29,000	9,200	38,200

Report of: Head of Environmental Management

Subject: PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information to members to enable them to formulate a policy in respect of public convenience provision.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 It is fair to say that over a long period of time the Council has not developed a sustainable policy in respect of public conveniences and, following officer recommendations, has determined, in the main, various closures with the occasional new facility being provided.

- 2.2 Various departments of the Council have, at one time or another, been given the responsibility of managing public conveniences and in 2003 Neighbourhood Services took over responsibility for public conveniences not associated with parks or the Historic Quay.

- 2.3 The current budget for public conveniences is £110K made up as follows:

	£
Wages for Clock Tower attendants	55K
Mobile attendant	20K
York Road contract	13K
Repairs and maintenance	22K

- 2.4 As members are aware, the York Road facility has been removed but, as the contract still had several years to run, there was no saving in 2005/06.

- 2.5 Because of the condition of the toilets the annual repair bill always exceeds the budget and, therefore, there is always an overspend.

- 2.6 In general, due to low budget provision, the buildings and service have not been maintained to the appropriate standards.

- 2.7 As a result, the condition of the buildings, the equipment, and the service in general, has deteriorated over the years to such an extent that facilities in some sites have had to be restricted, minimised or closed.

- 2.8 However, due to the prolonged inadequate maintenance and the ever-increasing vandalism, even the reduced service cannot be maintained using the current resources.

- 2.9 One of the greatest problems common to all facilities is the problem of vandalism and anti-social behaviour. This problem is of a lesser extent at the Clock Tower due to the presence of attendants. However, even here recent acts of anti-social behaviour are a major cause of concern.
- 2.10 Only the facilities at the Lighthouse, Middlegate, Albert Street car park, and the Clock Tower sites, provide disabled persons facilities. These, however, are below the required standards, particularly at the Clock Tower. None of the facilities provide adequate baby changing facilities.
- 2.11 The facilities at Thorpe Street, Pilot Pier and Seaton Baths are not connected to the main drainage system due to their low level or the absence of a drainage system in their locality. Thorpe Street is connected to a septic tank, the Pilot Pier and Seaton Baths sites are connected to cesspits. Northumbria Water is responsible for the Pilot Pier cesspit, while the Council is responsible for emptying of the cesspit at Seaton Baths. All other facilities are connected to the main drainage system.
- 2.12 It is estimated that a realistic annual maintenance figure would be £50K which would allow for reactive and planned maintenance.

2.13 Viewpoint 1000 Survey

The latest survey showed the following results:-

- (a) Nearly half of all respondents had not used any Council owned public conveniences in the last 12 months
- (b) Of the respondents who expressed an opinion over 70% felt that there should be more Council owned conveniences across the town
- (c) Nearly a third of Viewpoint 1000 members who had used the Council owned conveniences said that the condition and standard was poor
- (d) 60% of Viewpoint 1000 members felt that the Council should commit more financial resources to improve the standard or the number of public conveniences

2.14 Parks, Historic Quay and Cemeteries

In the parks there are public conveniences in Ward Jackson, Seaton, Rossmere and Burn Valley. In addition, Adult & Community Services are also responsible for the Hartlepool Maritime Experience toilets. Neighbourhood Services is responsible for the facilities at Stranton and West View Cemeteries.

2.15 Current condition of all public conveniences

The provision of public conveniences in each of the Forum Areas is as follows:

In the North there are five sets of toilets: Thorpe Street, the Lighthouse, the Pilot Pier, Middlegate Bus Station and West View Cemetery.

In the Central Forum area there is the public convenience in the Albert Street car park, together with facilities in Ward Jackson, Burn Valley, Stranton Cemetery and the Hartlepool Maritime Experience.

In the South there are five current facilities: the former baths site, the Clock Tower, the Rocket House, Seaton Park and Rossmere Park.

3. **NORTH FORUM AREA**

3.1 Thorpe Street and Pilot Pier:

The condition of the facilities at the Thorpe Street and Pilot Pier sites is extremely poor, therefore their immediate closure is proposed. Part of the closure would consist of disconnection of services and the bricking up of the doors and window openings.

3.2 Middlegate:

The condition of the Middlegate facilities is moderate to poor, nevertheless, with adequate maintenance resources they could have remained. However, now the decision has been made in respect of the Town Square development, the toilets have been closed. New facilities are being provided as part of the Town Square Scheme.

3.3 Lighthouse (Heugh Battery):

The condition of the Lighthouse (Heugh Battery) facilities is moderate to reasonable, although essential maintenance, some upgrading and refurbishment work is required. The facility has hand-washing and disabled facilities.

3.4 West View Cemetery:

The condition of the facilities is poor and very basic, although they are currently functional, and in need of maintenance.

It is recommended that the current arrangements continue. It is also recommended that essential maintenance be carried out to bring the facilities to the required standards, and for provisions to be made for adequate future maintenance.

Consideration needs to be given to the long-term level and extent of the service.

4. CENTRAL FORUM AREA

4.1 Albert Street car park:

The condition of the facilities at Albert Street car park is of moderate standard, although essential maintenance and upgrading is required. In addition, these facilities have seen acts of anti-social behaviour and staff are constantly removing hypodermic needles from within the block.

In addition the land upon which the facility stands is the subject of discussions with the College of Further Education with a view to disposal of the site.

4.2 Ward Jackson Park:

These facilities are both male and female, without hand-washing facilities or disabled person facilities.

Whilst still operational, the overall condition of the building and the fixtures and fittings is poor.

4.3 Burn Valley Gardens:

There are two sets of conveniences in Burn Valley, upper and lower.

The upper facility is closed and has been for a number of years. The main reasons being the high costs of vandalism and serious anti-social behaviour. Users of the gardens and nearby residents also requested closure.

The condition of the fabric of the building is extremely poor.

The use of the lower facility is restricted to users of the bowling green and club members. Therefore the facilities are only used during the outdoor bowling season.

The facilities are without hand-washing or disabled facilities and are restricted to male use as the female toilet is used for storage.

The condition of the building and facilities is very poor.

4.4 Stranton Cemetery:

The main public conveniences are situated within the crematorium building. There is also an external open roof structure housing a urinal, near the crematorium at the centre of the cemetery.

The condition of the facilities at the crematorium is reasonably good, although the facilities would benefit from some essential maintenance and improvements.

4.5 Hartlepool Maritime Experience:

These facilities are greatly under-used. They only open during Easter and August Bank Holidays when there is a fair in the car park, the two days of the Maritime Festival and, occasionally, when other special events take place.

The building is designed to be manned by an attendant and the number of cubicles is high compared to modern anti-vandal public conveniences. There are disabled and hand-washing facilities but no baby changing facility.

Although the building is relatively new, the overall condition of the building shows signs of prolonged neglect and lack of adequate maintenance.

As a result, a considerable number of the building elements, equipment, fixtures and fittings are in extremely poor condition and many would need replacing.

The roof has a number of open holes. Roof tiles are missing and many are loose. It also appears that the roof has no roof tile underfelt.

There are numerous cracks to walls, which suggest movement and settlement.

A number of windows are heavily decayed and in need of extensive repairs or replacement. This is mainly due to lack of maintenance.

Many of the equipment, fixtures and fittings are in need of replacement. For example, the taps and soap dispensers need replacing due to the oxidation of the chrome finish and the corrosion of the metal parts.

There are signs of dampness to the walls due to roof leaks and rain penetration. As a result the plaster and wall paint is peeling off.

There has been no external painting since the building was built. As a result the external doors, handrails, windows and other external painted surfaces are in very poor condition and some may need replacing.

The frost protection heaters in the service duct also need replacing due to extensive corrosion.

5. SOUTH FORUM AREA

5.1 Former Baths Site - Seaton Carew:

There are both male and female facilities on this site with hand-washing facilities but no disabled or baby changing facility.

The general condition of the building and facilities is poor, with the roof being a particular cause for concern.

5.2 Clock Tower - Seaton Carew:

The condition of the facilities at the Clock Tower is moderate to poor. Although they are currently operational, nevertheless extensive and essential maintenance and refurbishment works are required.

Due to the building being listed, the extensive structural problems and the difficulties associated with split-level of the site, combined with the layout restrictions, create severe technical, economical and operational limitations. For these reasons the long-term viability of the facilities is questionable in their present layout and the current economic climate.

5.3 Rocket House - Seaton Carew:

The condition of the building and facilities is extremely poor and beyond economic repair. At the moment the facilities are not operational.

5.4 Seaton Carew Park:

For the last two years the public conveniences in Seaton Carew Park have been closed. This came about as a result of the continuous heavy vandalism, the high activity of anti-social behaviour and the installation of high level lockable security fence around the bowling club complex, thus creating a lockable enclosure.

As a result, access to the enclosure was restricted only to the members of the bowls club and the park's personnel.

It is worth noting that, since the new arrangements were introduced, the rate of vandalism and anti-social activities to the bowls pavilion complex were reduced by more than 95%.

Both disused/closed public conveniences (Gents and Ladies) are now used by the parks section as stores.

These end sections, forming the public conveniences, are in poorer condition than the centre section occupied by the bowling club.

The bowling club look after their part of the building well. They keep the site clean and tidy. They have decorated the internal of the building as well as the front external elevation. They also removed the window boards. In addition they have hung external flower baskets. Generally they have greatly enhanced and improved the outlook of the building.

Within the bowling club building there are separate toilet facilities for gents and ladies, however there are no disabled facilities.

5.5 Rossmere Park:

There are both ladies and gents provision but no disabled or hand-washing facilities.

At present the facilities are operational, however, the overall condition of the building and the fixtures and fittings is very poor.

6. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE

6.1 The daily operational management and cleaning of the public conveniences, not including those in the parks, is limited to 3 hours per day including travelling time.

6.2 Every morning, starting at 7.30 am, an operative attends each facility in turn and opens, cleans, fills up the soap and toilet paper dispensers, checks the facilities and reports any obvious defects. At about 3.00 pm the operative begins his round to close the facilities. This level of service is inadequate.

6.3 Apart from some very basic maintenance, e.g. replacement of toilet seats, etc, the facilities do not receive the required maintenance nor do they have a planned maintenance programme.

6.4 The parks facilities are usually opened/closed and cleaned by the parks operatives. Also the facilities are opened during the park's opening hours.

6.5 Attendants service:

Only the facilities at the Clock Tower has full-time attendants. There are two attendants, male and female

The facilities are usually open at 10.00 am until 7.00 pm (Wednesday 6.30 pm). There are some variations during the summer and school holidays

Lunchtime is 1.5 hours. During lunchtime there are no washing facilities as these are located in the attendant's room

7. PROPOSALS

- 7.1 Close the Thorpe Street, Pilot Pier and Rocket House facilities and secure them in aesthetic materials.
- 7.2 Build a new facility adjacent to the old Rocket House site and close the Clock Tower site.
- 7.3 Carry out only essential maintenance to Clock Tower facility to keep them functioning until the new facilities are up and running.
- 7.4 Refurbish and upgrade the Lighthouse (Heugh Battery) facilities.
- 7.5 Consider what, if any, maintenance ought to take place to the Albert Street facility or whether it ought to be closed prior to any future land sale.
- 7.6 Consider the building of a new facility at the former Seaton Baths site, with closure and demolition of the existing facility.
- 7.7 Take no action in respect of the Seaton Park facilities other than essential maintenance. The new facilities at the Rocket House are in close proximity.
- 7.8 Demolish and make good the site at the Ward Jackson Park facilities. The toilets at the café to be made available to all public during opening hours. Consider extending the café opening hours to accommodate need.
- 7.9 Maintain and improve the facilities at Rossmere Park.
- 7.10 Demolish and make good the site in the Upper Burn Valley.
- 7.11 Maintain the Lower Burn Valley facility.
- 7.12 Introduce adequate heating, together with routine and planned maintenance to the Stranton Cemetery main facility.
- 7.13 Maintain existing facilities at West View Cemetery.
- 7.14 Consider the options in respect of the Hartlepool Maritime Experience.
- 7.15 In the light of the increased revenue costs, it is recommended that this building be either completely refurbished to make it as anti-vandal proof as possible, or closed and marketed, or continue with its current limited use.
- 7.16 It is also recommended that all Council owned buildings should provide, wherever possible, toilet facilities for the public. In addition, town centre landlords need to be encouraged to make their facilities available to the public during normal, now extended, opening hours.

- 7.17 It is recommended that full consultation take place on these proposals, with the three Forums, the Headland Parish Council, resident associations, the access group and, if felt appropriate, the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Forum is asked to give its views on the options and proposals contained in the report.

Report of: Director of Neighbourhood Services

Subject: MINOR WORKS BUDGET 2006/2007

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report to the Forum details of the Minor Works Budget allocation for 2006/2007 and the Forum's role with regard to the proposal and approval of schemes.

2. OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

- 2.1 In 2005/2006 the Forum was responsible for recommending and undertaking minor works for the general improvement of the North Area from a budget allocated by the Council.
- 2.2 The remit of the Forum for 2006/2007 will be to request approval for proposed minor works schemes from the Liveability and Regeneration Portfolio holder. If approval is given, then these works will be progressed in the normal way.
- 2.3 The Forum has been delegated £52,000 for this financial year, 2006/2007, as a Minor Works Budget. As was the case in 2006/2007 an additional allocation of £20,000 has been made from Highways Budgets, (£10,000 from the Local Transport Plan and £10,000 from the Highways Maintenance Budget). This money will address specific highways issues raised by the Forum in the South Area.
- 2.4 Further to this, an additional £15,000 has again been allocated to the Forum to address the common issue of the conversion of grass verges to hard standing, where the Forum considers this appropriate.
- 2.5 The framework when considering proposed schemes will continue as in previous years, as follows:
- (i) Outline schemes to be proposed by Members, Residents, Residents Representatives or Officers;
 - (ii) The Chair and Vice Chair of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forum will assess the proposal and where appropriate instruct Officers to cost the works and report to the Forum;
 - (iii) Reports to the Forum will include estimated costs alternative options where appropriate, residents' views and any other related information.

- (iv) Minor works schemes are likely to include any works of improvement to the area which benefit the community or a number of individual residents and enhance the quality of life in the neighbourhood. Individual repairs and improvements would not normally be funded from this budget but would be referred to other departmental budgets.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The Forum is asked to note that:

- (i) The Forum will submit recommendations regarding minor works proposals to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Liveability and Housing for final decision.
- (ii) £52,000 is available for general minor works schemes.
- (iii) £20,000 is available for highway related schemes.
- (iv) A further £15,000 has been allocated to specifically address the issues concerning grass verge re-instatement.

North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

Report of: North Hartlepool Partnership Manager

Subject: NORTH HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME
UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Forum on progress relating to activities and project development by the North Hartlepool Partnership.

2. PROJECT UPDATE

- 2.1 Details of progress on the North Hartlepool Partnership Programme are as follows:

2.2 Environmental Improvements

The North Hartlepool Board at its meeting in March approved a number of schemes to be implemented this year as follows:

Croft Gardens – new paving, new bench seating and the creation of a new entrance at the “Pothouse side”. The details of the scheme have been worked up in conjunction with the Friends of Croft Gardens.

Fish Sands – In March 2006 the existing benches from the Town Square were relocated onto Fish Sands. Sandwell Gate is to be enhanced through the provision of additional lighting.

Fairy Cove Terrace – An environmental scheme to include a gun to reflect the link to the Heugh Gun Battery.

Plaque – the plaque to the fallen soldier near the Heugh Gun Battery is to be refurbished.

St Mary’s Church Railings – the railings are to be replaced in partnership with from Hereema. NHP funds will cover the replacement of copings and pillars.

Further schemes have been approved for provision of parking to the rear of the co-op in response to consultation undertaken in December and a contribution towards the cost of a study to investigate congestion issues particularly around Northgate and Middlegate.

The North Hartlepool Advisory Group is looking at further schemes, which have been highlighted through the resident information event held in the Borough Hall on 15th May 2006. The Group's recommendations will be forwarded to the Board for their views. Scheme details will be reported to a future Forum.

2.3 Carnegie and Sports Hall Official Openings

At the time of writing, official openings are arranged for the new Headland Sports Hall (8th June) and the Carnegie Building (15th June).

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond, will officially open the new £1.9m Headland Sports Hall with special guest, European Super Bantamweight Champion, Michael Hunter. The new facilities comprise a large sports hall, state-of-the-art fitness suite, a creche, changing facilities and a viewing gallery, and can host a range of sporting activities - including 5-a-side to basketball, netball, cricket and volleyball.

The refurbished Carnegie Building will be officially re-opened by Susan Francis, granddaughter of the original building contractor. Over £1m has been spent on external repairs and re-roofing, together with restoring and retaining many existing internal features such as panelling and ceilings. The HBC Bibliography Department and the Sports Development Team now occupy the building.

2.4 Delivery Plan

The Delivery Plan for 2006/07 was approved by One NorthEast at the end of March.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Forum note the report.

Report of: The Hartlepool Partnership

Subject: COMMUNITY STRATEGY REVIEW 2006

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forum of the Hartlepool Partnership's timetable for preparing a new Community Strategy and to seek support from the Forum for their involvement in the process.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Hartlepool Partnership first met in July 1999 and undertook work to prepare a Vision of how key stakeholders saw the town developing in the next 15-20 years.
- 2.2 The Local Government Act 2000 introduced Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) and Community Strategies. Local Strategic Partnerships were set up as bodies that brought together, at a local level, the different parts of the public sector as well as the private, business, community and voluntary sectors so that different initiatives and services supported each other and work together. LSPs were given the core task of preparing and implementing a Community Strategy for the area. The Community Strategy was defined by government as a Strategy to promote or improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area.
- 2.3 The Hartlepool Partnership moved into the role as the town's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and agreed a set of Terms of Reference in December 2001. Today it acts as the strategic body bringing together all of the town's partnerships delivering services. In May 2001 a draft Community Strategy was published. Following a period of consultation events and activities that took place between May-December 2001, a final Community Strategy was agreed in April 2002.
- 2.4 On 5th May 2006 the Partnership launched a review of the Community Strategy and set out its intention to have a new Community Strategy for Hartlepool by the end of March 2007.

3. COMMUNITY STRATEGY REVIEW 2006

- 3.1 The Community Strategy Review is taking place in 3 distinct phases. The first of these reviews the current Community Strategy and seeks input from local residents, service users and service providers to inform the new Strategy. During June and July the Hartlepool Partnership needs the Forum's help in finding out what people living, working, playing and studying in the area really feel about the town and what they would like to see

changed. We want to know what type of a town people want to live in, and what are the priority areas for improvement. There are a number of ways the Neighbourhood Consultative Forum can be involved including:

- Encouraging forum members to complete household questionnaires either on paper or online at the Partnership's website
- Promoting the Community Strategy Review 2006 toolkit to local groups and organisations encouraging them to run their own consultation events
- Working with the Hartlepool Community Network to review the Strengthening Communities Theme of the Community Strategy and attending their workshop on the morning of 21st June 2006.

- 3.2 During summer a first draft of the new Strategy will be produced and during October and November the Forum will be invited to comment on the first draft. A final draft will be produced by the end of December and it is hoped that the Strategy will be formally adopted by the Partnership and key partners, including Hartlepool Borough Council, in early 2007.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Forum is requested to note the timetable for the Community Strategy Review 2006 and work with the Hartlepool Partnership to ensure the Forum's views are fed into the review.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The above recommendation is proposed as the new Community Strategy will set out a long-term vision for Hartlepool, and provide an overarching planning framework. It is important that the Forum's views are fed into the review to help shape the emerging Strategy.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Hartlepool Community Strategy 2002
Local Strategic Partnerships – Shaping their future. ODPM December 2005

8. CONTACT OFFICER

Joanne Smithson
Hartlepool Partnership
Bryan Hanson House
Hanson Square
Hartlepool
TS24 7BT

Tel. 01429 284147
e-mail joanne.smithson@hartlepool.gov.uk
Web www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk